

DAY JUNE 6

TV LISTINGS

OPINION

Mitchell's burial

More and the Pope

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# THE TIMES

30P

No. 65,600

FRIDAY JUNE 7 1996

TODAY

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Valerie Grove  
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**LYNNE TRUSS**

Sport-sceptic comes to grips with Euro 96  
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**ONE MAN AND A DOG**

On their last walk  
Philip Howard  
PAGE 20



THE TIMES GREAT SUMMER OF SPORT

TOMORROW

Paul Gascoigne by Bobby Robson  
Plus: Magazine 1966 and all that



## Vital role of US senator attacked MP threatens to quit over Ulster talks

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY and NICHOLAS WATT

JOHN MAJORS' Commons majority of one was under threat last night when a ministerial aide threatened to resign the party whip in protest at the Government's handling of the Northern Ireland peace process.

Terry Dicks, a private parliamentary secretary to transport ministers John Watts and Steven Norris and MP for Hayes and Harlington, raised the prospect of the Government losing its majority when he attacked the announcement that the US Senator George Mitchell will play the pivotal role in all-party Northern Ireland talks next week.

The issue now threatens to overshadow the talks which will be opened in Belfast by John Major and John Bruton, the Irish Prime Minister.

Mr Dicks' move came as Ulster Unionists and pro-unionist Tory MPs voiced anger at the appointment of Senator Mitchell, an envoy of President Clinton, as chairman of two of the most important parts of the talks because they suspect him of having nationalist sympathies. They also denounced guidelines that they claimed showed the Government had bowed to pro-Republican pressure from Dublin.

Senator Mitchell will chair the opening talks which will set in place the agenda for the main negotiations and head the sub-committee dealing with the decommissioning of terrorist weapons.

Ministers said that he had not been given the "over-arching chairmanship" and emphasised that he would not chair the discussions affecting relations between Belfast and Dublin.

Mr Dicks, one of a small group of fiercely pro-unionist Tories who have repeatedly said that too many concessions were being offered to Sinn Fein, said that he was



Mitchell: chairman of sessions on the agenda

"appalled and ashamed" that a foreigner had been put forward and said that the move represented "compromise, appeasement and kow-towing to Dublin".

Conservatives have voiced particular concerns over the failure by the Government to put forward a firm date by which agreement needs to be reached on the handing over of terrorist weapons. The two Governments skirted round the timing issue by saying in a joint paper that a meeting of all parties would be held towards the end of September.

David Wiltshire, Tory MP for Spelthorne and arch-Unionist, said the Government had conceded to demands of the Dublin. "We have seen a further appeasement of Sinn Fein/IRA and the SDLP which are determined to internationalise the whole problem. We have allowed foreigners to involve themselves in the internal affairs of the UK. Northern Ireland is part of my country."

Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionists, said that he would block the appointment when the parties meet to decide whether to accept the Governments' proposals on Monday. "He is an envoy of a foreign Government and no foreign Government should have any say in our internal affairs."

Announcing the agreement at a joint press conference in London, Northern Ireland Secretary Sir Patrick Mayhew said it was "a most important moment" for Northern Ireland. "I greatly hope that it will prove to be a historic turning point."

The two Governments were agreed that all parties taking part in the negotiations would have to make clear their "total and absolute commitment" to the six principles of democracy and non-violence set out in the Mitchell report.

Under this approach some decommissioning of terrorist weapons would have to take place during the process of the all-party negotiations. The British Government will chair strand one of the negotiations which deals with internal Northern Ireland matters and the British and Irish Governments will jointly chair strand three which covers relations between the two countries.

Both Sir Patrick and Dick Spring, the Irish Foreign Minister, reaffirmed there could be no place for Sinn Fein at the negotiating table until there was a new IRA ceasefire.

Mr Spring appealed to republicans to make that possible, stressing there would be no further obstacles once there was a fresh truce. "It is up to them and there can be no reason to fudge a decision," he said.

Gerry Adams, the president of Sinn Fein, criticised Britain for excluding his party from the talks. He said: "Our big concern and our main fear is that those who voted for our party are being excluded." Mr Adams added that differences in Ireland could be resolved in negotiations. But he insisted that Sinn Fein would have to be included.

Letters, page 21



Holmes: "Inuits are normally very calm, but Shooyook started jumping up and down."

## BBC film crew plucked from Arctic ice floe

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK AND ALEXANDRA FREAN



Allen: waited 20 hours for plane to arrive

A BBC television crew trying to film polar bears was rescued from an Arctic ice floe after it broke away from the Northwest Territories and started to drift out to sea.

In freezing rain and 25 knot winds, a Twin Otter aircraft took off from the settlement of Resolute on the Barrow Straits and landed on the large ice floe to rescue the crew of three.

Martha Holmes, a producer, her cameraman Doug Allen and their Eskimo guide Isaac Shooyook, waited 20 hours before the plane arrived.

All the time, their three-mile-long iceberg was moving serenely towards the fast open waters of Baffin Bay, where currents often make short work of the largest floes.

Miss Holmes said yesterday: "We were very pleased to see the Twin Otter."

The crew, attached to the BBC's natural history unit in Bristol, radioed for help when they were alerted to their predicament by an unusually animated Mr Shooyook.

Lacking much English, he used gesticulations to express his concern about the state of the ice and stretches of blue water which were suddenly appearing all around. "An icebreaker heading for Lunenburg Sound with ore had



recently been through the area," said Miss Holmes.

"Normally the ice freezes back over, but this apparently had not happened and we realised we were adrift. Inuits are normally very calm people, but Shooyook started shouting and jumping up and down. Clearly there was something wrong. He managed to

Continued on page 2, col 5

## Mortgage cheer as Clarke defies Bank again

By PHILIP WEBSTER and JANET BUSH

KENNETH CLARKE pleased homeowners, surprised the City and cheered Conservative MPs yesterday by cutting interest rates and persuading building societies to follow suit.

The Chancellor, apparently overruling Eddie George, the Bank of England Governor, for a third time, ordered an unexpected 0.25 per cent reduction - the third this year - taking the rate down to 5.75 per cent, its lowest since the end of 1994.

He was swiftly followed by the Halifax Building Society, Britain's largest mortgage lender, which responded with a 0.26 per cent cut in its

lending rate to 6.99 per cent, its fifth cut in the past year. Abbey National, the second largest lender, with about two million customers, trimmed its rates by 0.25 per cent to 6.94 for loans of £100,000 or more, 6.99 per cent for loans of £60,000 to £99,999 and to 7.04 per cent for loans up to £59,999. Northern Rock Building Society also cut its variable rate by 0.25 per cent. Other lenders are expected to follow.

The move brought a wave of accusations from Labour and other opposition parties that Mr Clarke was acting either for electoral reasons or because the recovery had collapsed. Gordon Brown, the

Shadow Chancellor, said: "The cut comes not because the economy is strong, but because it is weak. The Chancellor has cut rates because growth and business investments are depressed and manufacturing is now technically in recession."

Mr Clarke, who meets senior advisers at his country residence of Dorneywood today to discuss the Budget outlook, rejected as nonsense the idea that it was being done to pave the way for an autumn general election. He said he regarded the small move as a sensible one because the economy was growing below potential and inflation was low.

However, only three weeks ago, the Bank of England issued a warning that, without raising rates, the Government would probably miss its inflation target of 2.5 per cent or less in two years' time.

City and industry were deeply split over whether the Chancellor's gambit is a good one. Many City voices accused

Mr Clarke of putting his political fortunes above the health of the economy. Richard Jeffrey, chief economist at the Charterhouse Group, said: "This is a sop to the right wing of the Conservative Party."

Leading article, page 21  
Clarke defiant, page 25  
Pennington, page 27

### England shine

England dominated the opening day of the first Test match against India at Edgbaston. They dismissed India for 214 and then Michael Atherton and Nick Knight shared an unbroken opening partnership of 60. Page 48

### Pol Pot 'dead'

There were unconfirmed reports last night that Pol Pot, leader of the Khmer Rouge, who devastated Cambodia in the 1970s, had died. Military sources in Thailand said that he had been suffering from malaria. Page 16



Brown: had been beaten to death

### Man held over woman's death

A MAN aged 47 was being questioned last night in connection with the murder of Janet Brown, the 51-year-old nurse bludgeoned to death at her home in April last year. He was arrested in High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, yesterday morning.

A Thames Valley police spokesman said: "He is one of a number of people interviewed during the course of this inquiry." The man has not been named.

Mrs Brown was found handcuffed and beaten to death at her farmhouse in Radnage, Oxfordshire. Her husband Graham, aged 54, was abroad at the time.

## Wednesday Derby is royal favourite

By RICHARD EVANS

THE QUEEN would like the Derby returned to its traditional midweek slot of the first Wednesday in June - rather than being run on a Saturday. Her informal thoughts about the world's most famous flat horse race became known as final preparations were being made for the £850,000 classic run over a mile-and-a-half at Epsom tomorrow.

The Blue Riband of the Turf has been staged on a Wednesday during most of its 216-year history, but last year a switch was made to Saturday, with mixed results, and controversy continues over the best day for the race.

The Queen's view that the Derby should be moved from a Saturday is shared by Sir Ernest Harrison, chairman of Vodafone, whose company last year started a three-year sponsorship of the Derby meeting, worth £35 million.

Sir Ernest is seeing Epsom officials next week amid growing speculation that Vodafone will only take up a two-year option to continue sponsoring the Derby from 1998 if the Saturday experiment is scrapped.

Racing, pages 42, 43

## Raucous Portillo drowns out retreat

By ALICE THOMSON and MICHAEL EVANS

THE Defence Secretary was forced to issue an apology yesterday after holding a raucous party which disturbed spectators watching a beating the retreat ceremony.

Police were called on Wednesday night after complaints that Michael Portillo's guests were marring the ceremony for the 2,000 people watching the massed bands of the Household Cavalry.

The Defence Secretary had invited close friends and their

children to watch the ceremony from his bedroom window and enjoy a few drinks in the sitting room at his flat in Admiralty House. With all the windows flung open in the heat, the sounds of laughter and chatter drifted across the parade ground.

Spectators were surprised that Mr Portillo didn't seem to be taking the 16th century military ceremony seriously. He is currently meant to be considering the future of the Household Cavalry.

One guest at the annual ceremony in Horseguards Parade, who was standing well away from the flat, said he thought it was "some obnoxious spectator making a lot of noise".

Last night Mr Portillo said: "No discourtesy was intended and I am sorry if anyone was disturbed."

The apology is embarrassing for the Government because it has recently supported a backbench Bill to crack down on noisy neighbours.

From next month, anyone who is too rowdy after 7.00pm can be fined up to £100.



"It's not blinkers we need, it's ear muffs"

XERYUS ROUGE  
POUR HOMME



GIVENCHY

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# Lord's welcomes women - but only for one day



Grace: Long Room stalwart

By RUSSELL JENKINS

WOMEN are to be allowed into the pavilion at Lord's for the first time during playing hours when England's world-beating women take on the touring New Zealanders next Thursday.

Wives and partners of MCC members will be able to walk for the first time through the hallowed portals of the male-only sanctuary and into the Long Room, beneath the stern gaze of the father of modern cricket, W.G. Grace.

One of the last bastions of male exclusivity will fall on June 13 when women sit alongside MCC members for the women's one-day international. Until now only the Queen has been able to join the men in the

pavilion during playing hours. However, the MCC insists that the move does not hasten the day when women will be welcomed at county or Test matches. There are no plans to end the bar on them becoming members.

Nonetheless, the move is a step further forward than that taken during the 1993 women's World Cup final. Then the committee room was made available only to the Women's Cricket Association.

"It was generally felt by members that we should make this move," Chris Rea, the MCC's assistant secretary, said. "We are breaking new ground, but we have not yet discussed whether we will do the same at future matches."

The one-day international on

Thursday will be the sixth played by England women at cricket's headquarters in St John's Wood. The women have proved rather more successful than their male counterparts in recent years. They are the current world champions after beating New Zealand in the 1993 final. Two of their one-day games will be televised on Sky.

The Women's Cricket Association, based in Birmingham, is anxious not to provoke a controversy. Cath Harris, for the association, said:

"We are really pleased they have taken this step. The players are looking forward to being at Lord's next week and being able to play a larger part in the life of the ground. This is historic not only in terms of Lord's but for women's cricket as

a whole. The women's game has developed along a different track to the men and our results speak for themselves. We are the world champions and will defend the cup next year. We are quite capable of standing on our own two feet." The association said that the Test and County Cricket Board had "gone out of its way" to help with the arrangements for the New Zealanders' tour.

The Equal Opportunities Commission is demanding a change in the law governing sex discrimination to end anomalies that allow the MCC and others - mainly golf clubs - to retain male-only membership. "It is still on the agenda," the commission said. "We have asked for it to be moved, but so far

without any luck. It is something we still want."

In 1976 Rachael Heyhoe Flint, then the women's captain, led her side on a march through the Long Room after beating Australia. Five years ago, supported by the lyricist Tim Rice and the late commentator Brian Johnston, she lost her bid to become the first woman member of the MCC by 4,727 votes to 2,371.

An MCC working party is expected to be set up to investigate the current membership laws. Mr Knight suggested it was vital to uphold traditions that embodied the standards and values of the game. "At the same time, we cannot stand still. The world is going forward."

England success, page 48

## Palace to scrutinise Duchess of York's life story

By ALAN HAMILTON

BUCKINGHAM PALACE is dusting down its most powerful legal microscope in readiness for the Duchess of York's autobiography, which she will write after signing a \$1.3 million (£838,000) deal with the New York publisher Simon and Schuster.

The Palace refuses to be drawn into details of the Duchess's past life or what the attitude might be to a revelatory volume but it is known that the Queen's lawyers will pick over every word in search of breaches of the confidentiality clause the Duchess accepted as part of her £2 million divorce settlement.

Palace officials are alert to the possibility that she may be tempted to disclose personal details about members of the Royal Family. But a spokesman for the Duchess's office in London said yesterday: "The Duchess will not break any confidentiality agreements; she holds the Queen in high esteem. The book will deal with her early life, and her transition from private life into the public domain."

As far as the Palace is concerned, the Duchess may do what she wishes provided she does not bring disrepute upon her former family. Her principal difficulty will be in explaining the celebrated toe-sucking episode with the American financial adviser John Bryan, conducted whilst topless at a Riviera villa and in front of her two children and two apparently slumbering royal protection officers from the Metropolitan Police.

If the Duchess were to overstep the mark, the Palace would have two options. It could freeze payments on her divorce settlement but such a move is unlikely as £1.4 million of it has been put in trust for her children.

The other option is to seek a High Court injunction preventing the book's publication. Were the application to be successful, the book would not appear in Britain, and any money made from it elsewhere would be frozen by the courts.

Injunctions that apply internationally are theoretically possible to obtain, but almost impossible to impose overseas. The Palace is unlikely to go to the trouble and expense of seeking injunctions in the American courts, where there is every likelihood that they would not be granted.

One further question remains. As the Duchess's two hardbacks on the life and travels of Queen Victoria were written largely with the help of respected but anonymous academics, will she be hiring a ghostwriter to tell her life story?

## Detective warned of Hamilton gun risk five years ago

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH AND STEPHEN FARRELL

A DETECTIVE gave warning five years ago that Thomas Hamilton was an unstable, deceitful and scheming man who posed a threat to children and should not have a gun licence.

Senior officers decided to take no action over the warning, however, and a year later Hamilton's firearms certificate was renewed.

The warning was given by Paul Hughes, then a detective sergeant in charge of the child protection unit for Central Scotland Police, after he had investigated Hamilton's summer camp at Loch Lomond-side in 1991.

The Dunblane inquiry into Hamilton's killing of 16 children and their teacher, was told yesterday that Mr Hughes had prepared a 130-page report for the Procurator Fiscal in Stirling suggesting that Hamilton could be prosecuted on ten counts.

When the Procurator Fiscal decided not to press charges, Mr Hughes sent a strongly worded report to his deputy chief constable, Douglas McMurdo, urging that Hamilton's gun licence be revoked. Mr McMurdo, now Assistant Chief Inspector of Constabulary for Scotland, marked the report "no action".

Mr Hughes wrote: "I firmly believe he has an extremely unhealthy interest in young boys, which to a degree appears to have been controlled to date. I would contend that Mr Hamilton will be a risk to children whenever he has access to them."

"He appears to me to be an unsuitable person to possess a firearms certificate in view of the number of occasions he has come to the adverse attention of the police and his

apparent instability. It is his policy whenever challenged to engage in smoke-screen tactics which divert attention from the focal issue and this is the purpose for the profusion of correspondence to MPs, procurators fiscal, the chief constable and the like."

"I respectfully request that serious consideration is given to withdrawing this man's firearms certificate as a precautionary measure as it is my opinion that he is a

that while he appreciated Mr Hughes' concerns, he could not recommend the removal of the firearms certificate because Hamilton had no conviction for crime and the Procurator Fiscal was unlikely to prosecute over the summer camp allegations.

The report was returned after being stamped "no action" by the Deputy Chief Constable in November 1991. A year later Hamilton's gun licence was renewed.

Mr Hughes told Lord Cullen, who is hearing at inquiry at the Albert Halls in Stirling, that he believed Hamilton was a paedophile but that his tendencies were controlled.

He said that during his investigation he had formed an opinion that Hamilton was capable of violence, and had been concerned when he discovered that Hamilton owned two pistols and was authorised to hold two more guns.

The inquiry was told that during the 1991 camp one boy alleged he was taken to an individual tent by Hamilton and photographed. He was the only boy to wear red trunks; all the others wore black trunks.

Mr Hughes, now a detective chief inspector, said that he believed the boy was being singled out by Hamilton and groomed for further abuse. He said Hamilton had also forced boys to take part in a video on a Lord of the Flies theme. One boy was made to lie in shallow water. The others were drenched in a rain shower and ended up cold and wet.

The police recovered 279 slides and 72 photographs of boys at the camp. None was judged to be indecent.

Hughes suggested ten charges against Hamilton

scheming, devious, and deceitful individual who is not to be trusted."

Mr Hughes wrote that Hamilton had assaulted a boy three times in the first two days of the camp. A child had made allegations that Hamilton had induced him to pose for photographs in compromising positions, scantily clad in ill-fitting swimming trunks. The photographs could not be found.

The report was initially passed to Superintendent John Miller, who wrote on it

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and "no action"

and "no action"

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and "no action"

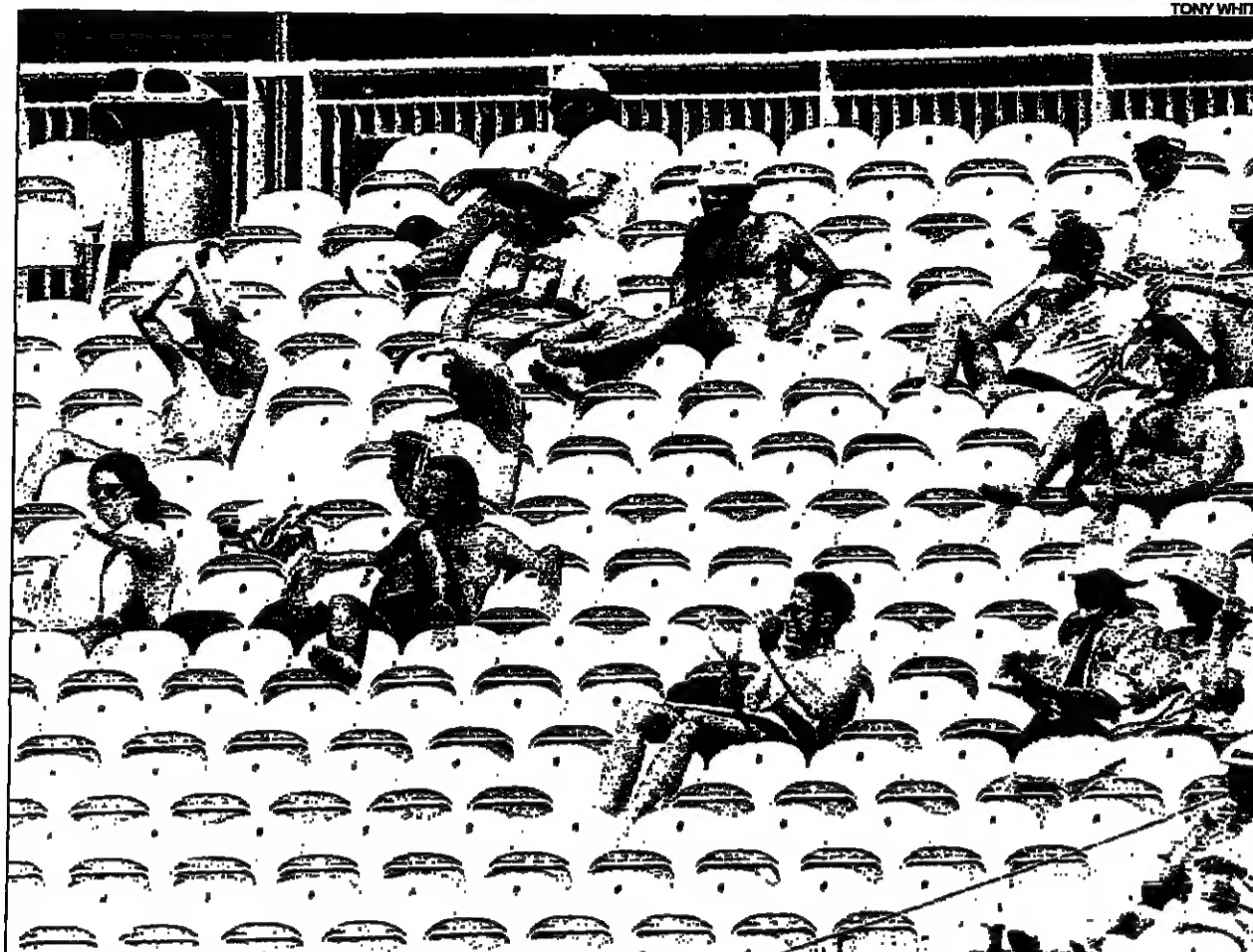
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and "no action"



Cricket fans soak up the June sunshine as they watch Middlesex play Glamorgan at Lord's yesterday

## Pollution alert announced as sizzling capital leaves Naples in the shade

By NICK NUTTALL

BRITAIN had the hottest day of the year yesterday, with the capital hotter than Naples, as warm air swept in from the Continent.

The hottest place in the country was Gravesend, in Kent, where thermometers reached 30.8C (88F). The bookmakers William Hill quoted odds of 5-1 that the country's highest temperature on record, 38.7C, would be surpassed this year.

Further north, the weather was bright but cooler, with highs of 25C recorded in Birmingham and 20C in Manchester. Rain clouds

begin to clear from Scotland and the Northern Isles.

Thunderstorms are forecast for later today, and a slightly cooler weekend.

An air pollution alert was announced for most of England and Wales yesterday for the first time this summer as bright sunlight and still air combined with traffic and factory fumes.

Health experts gave warning that millions of people, including joggers and sports enthusiasts, could suffer chest pains and breathing difficulties. The Government's air quality experts gave warning that levels of high pollution, experienced

in London and the South East yesterday, were set to spread to many areas.

The pollution alert, which covers most of England and Wales, comes during National Bike Week, and next week is the government-backed Green Transport Week. A campaign urging people to leave the car at home is also running.

Mary Stevens, of the National Society for Clean Air, said yesterday: "The levels of pollution show that, laudable though these initiatives are, it is down to government to take decisive action to ensure that clean air is achieved for all by 2005". The society

expressed dismay that the Environment Department had not published its draft national air quality strategy.

Last year John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, announced that local councils were being asked to submit plans on how they would like to cut air pollution. Ms Stevens said until councils knew what air quality and health standards the Government was setting, many would be unable to draft plans. The society believes interdepartmental wranglings in Whitehall are causing the delay.

Forecast, page 24



Historic trail of coincidence leading to a Yorkshire farm: from left, Townsend, the downed German plane, and Linley

## Linley move crashes into his mother's lost love

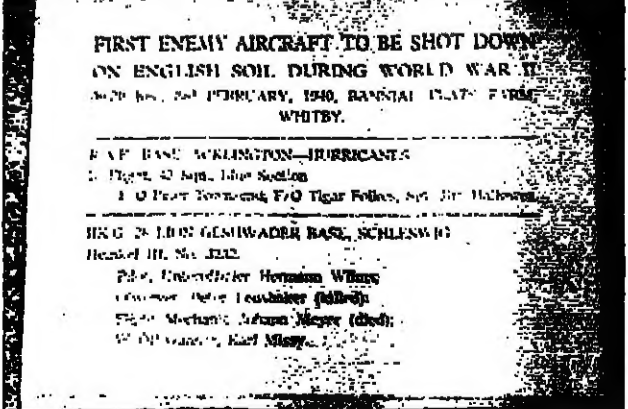
PRINCESS MARGARET's son is thought to have called off a planned move to the North York Moors, where a wartime link with his mother's lost love has come to light. Lord Linley's furniture business was granted permission a year ago to switch some of its workshops to a farm on the Guisborough Road above Whitby. The farm has since been sold locally, and last night local people were wondering if a change of heart had been caused by a plaque honouring the exploits of Group Captain Peter

Townsend. At 09.30 hours on February 3, 1940, the first enemy aircraft shot down on English soil during World War II, a Heinkel Bomber, fell directly on Bannial Flats Farm. Leading a sort of Hurricanes from B Flight, 43 Squadron, Blue Section, RAF Base, Acklington, Northumberland, was Townsend, later romantically linked to Princess Margaret.

The farm was empty a year ago when Lord Linley and his business partner, Mark Whiteley, were granted permission to switch part of their

Cirencester concern there. Mark Sutherland, a spokesman for the National Park Committee, said planning permission for workshops still had four years to run: "If there are second thoughts, that permission still stands, although we have not heard a word from them for a year."

The farm was bought by a Whitby coal merchants, Mr Whiteley, who has a home at moorland Fylingdales, refused to say if the venture was cancelled: "Until plans for Whitby are further advanced, I cannot comment further."



The plaque commemorating the RAF success

## Police hold fire after holes appear in veteran's story

DETECTIVES investigating an alleged "road-rage" attack on a Normandy veteran have been unable to find any witnesses and are taking no further action, it emerged yesterday (Adrian Lee writes).

Doubts were also cast over the war record of Ronald Francis, and, if he cannot verify that, he may be required to resign from a veterans' association. Mr Francis, 73, from Chichester, West Sussex, who told detectives that three young men threatened to burn him

alive after attacking him in Portsmouth, was inundated with messages of sympathy.

The incident attracted widespread publicity after Mr Francis appeared at a news conference, claiming all he did to provoke the attack was make a gesture of thanks to the men, which was misinterpreted.

Hampshire Police said: "We have followed up all the information we had. Without further evidence the inquiry cannot go any further." Offi-

cially the file will remain open. Police said Mr Francis had not retracted his statement. He said he was kicked and punched and the beating stopped only when the youths noticed his Normandy Veterans Association badge on his blazer.

It is understood the police inquiry raised doubts about the war record of Mr Francis, who claimed to have been wounded on the bridge at Arnhem while serving with the 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment. It now

appears Mr Francis was a member of another battalion and on the fringes of the action. Doubt was also cast over his claims to have been involved in the D-Day landings. A former paratrooper confirmed Mr Francis had served in the regiment, but in the 10th battalion.

The police spokeswoman said the doubts did not influence the decision to scale down the investigation. "What he may or may not have said about the war is a matter for him. That was irrelevant to the inquiry."

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THESE SAY  
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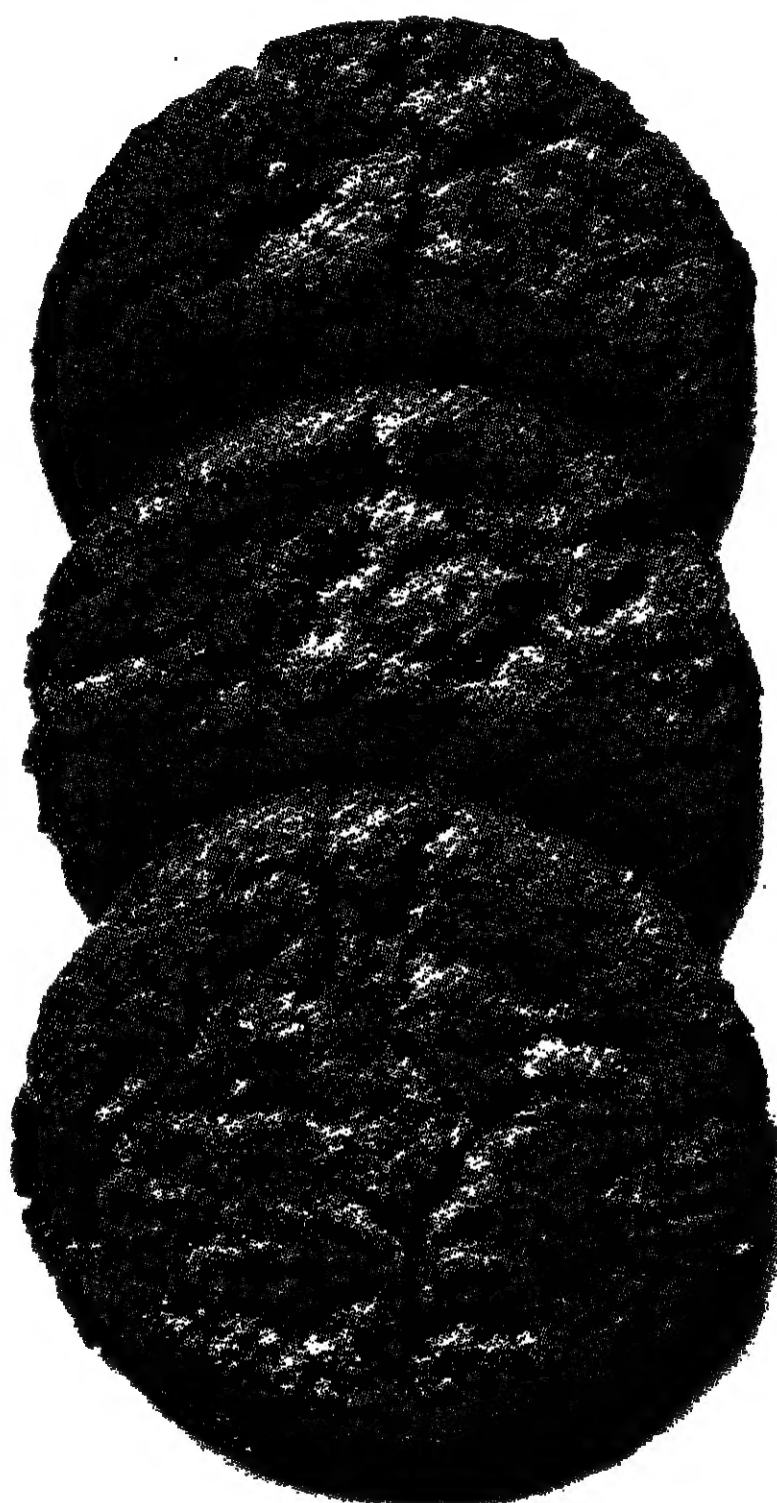
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**Is everything bad for us?  
Or are we getting things  
out of proportion?**

**The United States Environmental Protection Agency recently conducted a major review of studies on the risks of second-hand tobacco smoke to non-smokers. These studies typically involve non-smokers living with smokers over a long period, such as 20 years.**



**We believe you'll find the case convincing.**

	Everyday Activities	Reported Relative Risk*	Reported Health Effect	Scientific Study Reference
Associated with substantial risk	Diet highest in saturated fat	6.14	Lung cancer	Journal of the National Cancer Institute, Vol. 85, p.1906 (1993)
	Non-vegetarian v vegetarian diet	3.08	Heart disease	American Journal of Clinical Nutrition, Vol. 31, p. S191 (1978)
	Frequently cooking with rapeseed oil	2.80	Lung cancer	International Journal of Cancer, Vol. 40, p. 604 (1987)
Weak association with risk	Drinking 1-2 glasses of whole milk per day	1.62	Lung cancer	International Journal of Cancer, Vol. 43, p. 608 (1989)
	Eating one biscuit a day	1.49	Heart disease	Lancet, Vol. 341, p. 581 (1993)
	Drinking chlorinated water	1.38	Rectal cancer	American Journal of Public Health, Vol. 82, p. 955 (1992)
Associated with reduced risk	Eating pepper frequently	1.30	Mortality	American Journal of Epidemiology, Vol. 119, p. 775 (1984)
	Exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke	1.19	Lung cancer	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (1992)
	High vegetable diet	0.37	Lung cancer	International Journal of Epidemiology, Vol. 25, Suppl.1, p. 32 (1996)
	High fruit diet	0.31	Lung cancer	American Journal of Epidemiology, Vol. 133, p. 683 (1991)

\*Relative risk measures how much consuming, or being exposed to something, raises or lowers risk

**Philip Morris Europe S.A.**  
**Second-hand tobacco smoke. Let's keep a sense of perspective.**

THE TIMES  
Antiques  
**How  
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هكذا من الأصل



THE TIMES FRIDAY JUNE 7 1996

Antiques dealer tells of finding Canova statue under rhododendron bush in West Country garden

# How Mr Lazarus raised £1m Cupid from the dead

By DALYA ALBERGE AND RICHARD DUCE

AN ANTIQUES dealer who started his working life as a Bermondsey market-trader emerged yesterday as the man who discovered a £1 million Canova sculpture in a West Country garden.

The identity of the finder has intrigued the art world since Sotheby's announced the discovery of the missing *amorino*, or Cupid, earlier this week. He is David Lazarus, who runs a modest shop in a Hampshire village, specialising in 17th to early 19th-century English and Continental objects d'art. He established the business in 1975, having worked in the women's sportswear business and as a trader at Bermondsey and Portobello Road markets.

After being traced to his shop in Hartley Wintney, he agreed to talk of a discovery about which most dealers can only dream and of the four years' research spent in proving the value of his find. Mr Lazarus, who is single and in his late fifties, insisted that, at first, he had no idea of the sculpture's significance but was reluctant to reveal the exact circumstances of the find, apart from to say that it came from a garden in the West Country.

Mr Lazarus, who also deals in garden statuary, explained that he was contacted by the former owner, who had just moved house. The man, who had dealt with Mr Lazarus in

the past, wanted to sell a number of sculptures he had brought with him from his previous home.

Mr Lazarus was taken to see the Canova one rainy day in 1992. After decades of being exposed to the elements, it was engulfed by lichen and weeds and not looking its best. "It was covered in muck and had bits missing."

The garden, like the house, was being renovated. The Canova, carved in the early 1790s, was standing without a plinth, under a rhododendron bush and a plastic cover. The two men dragged it out to get a better look.

"I took a step back, looked at it and thought, 'It's got something'," Mr Lazarus said. Turning down the other pieces and relying on gut instinct, he made an offer for the Canova, but would not disclose how much.

"He wanted to think about it. He mulled it over. I increased the offer. Over a period of four to six weeks, a 'fair deal' was negotiated," said Mr Lazarus, who drove off with the statue in the back of a Volvo.

He had the statue restored, removing the coat of white paint that, for some reason, had been applied in the past. After taking it to a restorer, he embarked on four years of painstaking research.

He had been told by the seller that it had been in his

family's hands from the 1960s. "They acquired it from a property in North Wales." He would not divulge any more. "How would you feel if I purchased something from you and then told the world?"

Libraries and archives throughout Europe became a home from home as searched for information. "Once we had an inkling on the Canova field, then we started. Certain things were said to me. One thing led to another."

He had Canova's letters translated and found references to a base for an *amorino* that matched his. Eventually, he tracked down the leading Canova scholar, Hugh Honour, who authenticated it. "When he came to see it, he said, 'Yes, with no reservations.'" Mr Lazarus kept it in a secure warehouse, unable to



David Lazarus's shop in Hartley Wintney, Hampshire. He began his working life on market stalls in Bermondsey and the Portobello Road

afford the insurance. Continuing to research the provenance, he placed advertisements in newspapers in North Wales: a caption under a photograph asked for anyone with information to come forward. The inquiries drew a blank until Mr Honour

identified Canova's hand on the life-sized figure.

Mr Lazarus, who has been trading for 35 years, recently became a member of the British Antique Dealers Association. Its strict vetting system means that only 429 of Britain's estimated 12,000

dealers are members. Members have to be proposed and seconded and approved by independent consultants who visit the shop and scrutinise the quality of stock and labelling.

He had a stand at the association's fair this year and

last year, which was described as "a mark of distinction" by Elaine Dean, the association's secretary-general. She added: "He had very interesting objects. It is not surprising that he's come up with something interesting."

Mr Lazarus lives above the

shop and is among dozens of dealers in Hampshire. Buyers include the tourist trade, drawn to the late 19th-century village, the main stop for tourist coaches on the London to Penzance route.

The Canova will be sold at Sotheby's on July 4.

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Samantha Barker of Sotheby's with the Canova Cupid. It is expected to fetch £1 million at auction

## Unknown past of long-lost marvel

By RICHARD DUCE AND DALYA ALBERGE

FOR almost two centuries the location of Antonio Canova's Cupid statue has been a mystery.

The commissioning of the statue in Rome in the late 1700s was well-documented, as was its arrival at Harcourt Street, Dublin, on August 14, 1792. There it was carefully unpacked and placed in the parlour of John David Latouche.

Latouche, the son of a banker, was 17 when he commissioned the statue during his grand tour of Italy in 1789. Canova had just completed a statue for another Englishman, Colonel John Campbell, and Latouche was prepared to pay £250 for a similar work.

By the early 19th century, the history of the piece becomes unclear. Latouche died in 1838, at a time when sculpture was an acceptable feature of interior design: it would probably have been placed on a turntable for visitors to view from different

angles. By the early 20th century such decoration had fallen from fashion and many statues were relegated to the garden.

It is unclear whether the Cupid remained in Dublin or was at some stage moved to the Latouche family seat, Bellevue, in Co Wicklow. What is clear is that the statue bought by John David Latouche was by now perceived to be no more than garden furniture of little value.

According to Irish genealogists, the direct Latouche line is no longer extant. Bellevue fell into disrepair and was demolished soon after the Second World War.

Some time in the 19th century the statue is thought to have crossed the Irish Sea to North Wales, where descendants of Latouche once lived. It was rediscovered there sometime in the 1960s and brought to the West Country, where it was seen by David Lazarus.

### CORRECTIONS

□ Mr Timothy Coltart (High Society, June 5) has not retired and is still fully practising as a consultant obstetrician and gynaecologist.

□ The photograph accompanying the obituary yesterday of Lord Cameron was, in fact, that of his son, Lord Cameron of Lochbroom. We apologise for the error.

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# Charity for crime victims attacks rival campaign

By RICHARD FORD  
HOME CORRESPONDENT

A CHARITY with government backing that supports the victims of crime yesterday criticised a rival charity run by a policeman.

Detective Constable Norman Brennan has started several campaigns over the past few years and has appeared repeatedly in the media highlighting attacks he has suffered as a British Transport Police officer.

Yesterday he launched a campaign for one charity he founded, the Victims of Crime Trust, with the support of the mothers of two murdered children, James Bulger and the Moors victim Lesley Ann Downey. The campaign aims to raise up to £3 million for a 24-hour helpline offering support and counselling.

Detective Constable Brennan, 36, has previously launched lone campaigns on improved protective clothing for police and for their routine arming. His latest initiative was criticised by British



Norman Brennan, no stranger to headlines, invited Ann and Alan West, the parents of Lesley Ann Downey, and, right, Denise Bulger, to yesterday's media launch

## Detective 'breaks ranks' to plead for better protection

By KATE ALDEN

A POLICE officer who has been criticised for leaving his home and family to work in the front line of crime is pleading for better protection.

I quit, says policeman

the bravest in Britain



Transport Police. A spokesman said: "He has these launches every so often. Back in 1990 he was going to raise £1 million in six months. We carried his announcement of his resignation in our staff newspaper. It never happened." When he founded Victims of Crime Trust in 1994, Detective Constable Brennan said again he would

resign from the force the following year but he remains a serving officer.

Officials from Victim Support, sponsored by the Home Office, reacted angrily to his fundraising initiative, which threatens to starve it of funds from charitable trusts. A statement said: "While we are aware of Mr Brennan, we have no prior knowledge of his

plans to relaunch his trust. We have our own plans to establish a helpline."

Detective Constable Brennan said yesterday that senior managers of the force had been embarrassed by his campaign and by the support he had won from the public and rank-and-file officers. "I had mega-opposition. It almost brought me to my knees but it

was the support of the public that kept me going. He is chairman of the trust and a friend, Greg Lynn, is project manager. Detective Constable Brennan said Mr Lynn was "in the music business" and involved in staging Christian concerts and organising the junior Olympics. The trust's newspaper says that the broadcaster Nick Ross is a patron.

Mr Lynn said last night that Mr Ross ended his two-year term as patron recently. The newspaper was old stationery. The campaign won praise from Denise Bulger. "The only help I had when James died was from my family and friends and they were grieving like I was," she said. "I thought I was on my own until I came here today and saw

what these people are going through. The helpline is a great idea."

In 1990 Detective Constable Brennan cycled from John o' Groat's to Land's End to raise £1 million for Charathon UK, which helps a variety of charities. Last night he could not say how much the trip raised but said that since then he had raised £400,000.



## Killer taken to Appeal Court by public train

A judge expressed surprise yesterday that authorities at Ravenswood Hospital, Hampshire, a secure unit, transported a psychopath who killed her son to court in London by train.

Sitting at the Court of Appeal, Mrs Justice Ebsworth ordered that Tara Beale be detained indefinitely at the hospital. She said Beale, 25, of Wareham, Dorset, could pose a danger to the public. Earlier this year, at Winchester Crown Court, Beale admitted the manslaughter of her son, aged ten.

## Doctor's suicide

A verdict of suicide was returned at an Oxford inquest into the death of Dr Patrick Alesworth, who hanged himself from a tree at Fair Mile psychiatric hospital, Wallingford, after being convicted last year of the manslaughter of his daughter on the ground of diminished responsibility.

## £110,000 for slip

A teacher won £110,000 compensation in a out-of-court settlement with Dorset County Council after slipping on a highly polished floor and breaking her hip. Diana Stalner, 57, needed a hip replacement operation after the fall six years ago at Winton School, Bournemouth, and has not worked since.

## Chief inspector

David O'Dowd, former Chief Constable of Northamptonshire, is to become the next Chief Inspector of Constabulary later this summer. Mr O'Dowd, 54, is currently the inspector of constabulary responsible for checking a group of forces in the South East, East Anglia and the Midlands.

## Monty returns

A statue of Field Marshal Montgomery was dedicated by Prince Michael of Kent at Colleville-Montgomery, France, to commemorate the 52nd anniversary of D-Day. The British officer and his 3rd Infantry Division liberated the town, subsequently renamed from Colleville-sur-Orne in his honour.

## Bomb trial ruling

A man awaiting trial in connection with the Israeli Embassy bomb attack in London should remain in custody, the High Court ruled. Mahmud Abu-Wardah's lawyers say he will have been held for 389 days before the trial, and the custody time limit is 112 days.

## A fine mess

The owner of a 1935 Standard 10 has received parking fines totalling hundreds of pounds even though the car has not moved for 30 years. Dave Corn, 56, of Sharncliffe, Cheshire, has been sent 48 tickets for offences in London. A driver using the same registration number is being hunted.

## Social workers unable to house arson suspect

By PAUL WILKINSON

A SOCIAL WORKER is shadowing every move of a 12-year-old alleged arsonist because there is no place in any suitable secure accommodation in England or Wales.

The boy appeared before magistrates in Keighley, West Yorkshire, on Wednesday accused of starting a £500,000 fire at a pub on Monday. The court agreed to a remand to a secure unit and Bradford social services successfully applied for the appropriate order from the Department of Health, which has responsibility in such circumstances.

Last night, social workers had still failed to find any unit with a spare place. A spokesman for Bradford social services said: "No places were available throughout the country in secure accommodation. We are continuing to make inquiries and he will be placed as soon as accommodation is available. Until then he is under one-to-one supervision 24 hours a day."

Staff contacted 23 centres without success. They also made three separate approaches for help to the national clearing house for beds in local authority homes run by Leeds City Council, but to no avail.

Bradford rejected a claim by the Department of Health that at least four secure places were available on Wednesday, one at Glen House in Southampton and three at Netherpton Park near Morpeth, Northumberland. "Glen House told us it had no vacancies and Netherpton Park refused to take the boy," said an official, who also discounted suggestions from the department that reserve places were always

available at a centre in Co Durham. "We approached the Aycliffe centre and they had no vacancies."

The boy is due to appear again this morning before the Keighley juvenile panel. He is accused of recklessly endangering life by setting fire to the Flare and Hounds pub in Menston, north of Leeds. The building had only recently reopened after a £2 million refurbishment.

The child is already in the care of Bradford social services. He was living at a home only a few hundred yards from the pub. The social service department refused to disclose whether he had been returned to the same home.

John Godward, chairman of Bradford's services to children sub-committee, said: "Despite the best efforts of our social workers, there were no places available. Local authorities, regardless of political persuasion, have said for many years that there are insufficient places for the numbers of children involved."

Alun Michael, shadow home affairs minister, said: "In February 1991, as a result of substantial pressure both inside and outside parliament, the Home Secretary promised to find additional secure places. Now, well over five years since that promise was made, not one single place has been provided."

Courts have no powers to remand children under 15 to secure units without the special sanction of the Health Department. Young offenders are usually put in local authority care, but social workers have no authority to physically detain them.

## Daffodils herald golden age for Alzheimer's research

THOSE who think that Wordsworth's poetry has said all there is to be said about daffodils haven't kept abreast with recent medical research into the treatment of Alzheimer's disease.

Two types of daffodil, and the caucasian snowdrop, have been found to be rich in the chemical galanthamine, which shows promise in the treatment of the symptoms of Alzheimer's.

The rich harvest is found in a variety called ice folly, which has almost white petals and a dark yellow trumpet, and a variety called carton, with a bright yellow flower. Many hosts of daffodils are required, however. Chemists need ten kilograms of the drug.

Alzheimer's, the most common cause of senile dementia, attacks people of every class, whatever their intelligence, and no group is exempt. It can start while patients are still in their prime but becomes increasingly common as age advances.

Bishops, peers, academics, neuroscientists and families of patients met at the Science Museum in London this week to discuss future research into the prevention, treatment and cure of Alzheimer's. An international research centre is to be built at a cost of £1 million at Cambridge, which already has a team of neuroscientists

working on the condition. Alzheimer's is always considered pre-eminently a disease of loss of memory. Although this is often an early symptom, more striking is the disintegration of the sufferer's personality. The condition progresses insidiously and as it does so the patient is liable to suffer depression and paranoia. Eventually they recognise nobody and are unable to undertake any of the normal body functions.

There are several other causes of dementia besides Alzheimer's and correct diagnosis using MRI scanning is essential. Some causes of senile dementia can be treated and in others the drugs prescribed for Alzheimer's could be harmful.

Although the cause of Alzheimer's is not known, an increasing amount is being learnt about those at risk of developing it. For a minority there is an obvious family history and in these cases a genetic pattern is being unravelled. The changes in the brain

that are seen with Alzheimer's, both biochemical and structural, are also better understood. It is the possibility of minimising the biochemical changes by using the acetylcholinesterase-inhibitor group of drugs which is most likely to be immediately rewarding for researchers.

The pharmaceutical company Warner Lambert has been working on Tacrine, but the drug's liver toxicity has prevented it from being licensed in Britain. At the same time the international pharmaceutical firm Janssen has been investigating galanthamine with two British companies. Shire and McFarlan Smith. Galanthamine is less powerful than Tacrine but kinder to the liver.

Even before the Alzheimer's Research Trust has built its new centre, a piece of research has offered some comfort to those people who have one of the inherited forms of Alzheimer's: its onset is delayed by smoking cigars and drinking wine.

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# Farm shops go to town with treats for all the family

By RAGWALD MARTEL

BRITAIN'S booming farm shops are turning themselves into leisure sites to rival theme parks and cinemas rather than supermarkets.

Grubby punnets and hand-written signs for fruit and vegetables have been replaced by the last word in modern retailing equipment and attractions such as animal and tractor rides, tea-rooms, nature trails and children's playgrounds.

Laurie March, chairman of the Farm Retail Association, which now has 200 members, said yesterday: "No supermarket could ever rival the products, quality or facilities available at the farm shops, but the large farm shops now have the objective of offering a different shopping experience which the whole family can enjoy together."

Rob Kean of Over Farm Market, Over, Gloucestershire, said: "Shopping here is not a chore. Instead, it is a very enjoyable day out." Mr Kean set up his shop 14 years ago, selling only potatoes. The range of products on offer now includes vegetables and eggs and jams and cheeses, and even stretches to free-range ostrich meat.



From home-made jams and preserves to freshly picked fruit and vegetables, farm shops offer choice rarely found in supermarkets that buy from around the world

"Growth has been very quick," he said. "We were tiny when we started, but we soon discovered that families liked to get away from the cities for a day or two."

Today, Over Farm Market serves 1,800 customers a day, with the figure rising to 4,000 at weekends. Sunny Boyd of Chatsworth Farm Shop, Derbyshire, is so confident about

the state of retail farming that he is planning a second outlet. Already his shop sells 2,500 different products.

According to figures soon to be published by the Centre of AgriFood Business at the Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester, 34 per cent of shops surveyed said that their business was growing while

48 per cent were "going steady". Only 18 per cent said they were in decline. Scott Andrews and Ruth Williams, who did the research, said: "The most successful shops were those which had found

niche markets in specialist produce, especially those which attract families." The farm shops evolved out of "pick-your-own" schemes in the late 1970s and

have never stopped growing. Rita Exner of the Farm Retail Association believes that there are now more than 2,000 in Britain, with most in the South. "They become bigger and more profitable every day," she said.

The biggest selling point of the shops remains the quality of the food. Mr Boyd said: "What we sell here is absolutely top-quality food, and is unavailable in the supermarkets."

Anne Walton of Roseden Farm Shop, Northumberland, whose customers drive for up to 1½ hours to reach her, said: "Parents are much more concerned with what they eat; they want to know the food's background."

Farm shop price guide: venison chops £3.60 a lb, venison steak £5.50 a lb, wild boar sausages £4.20 a lb, new potatoes 39p a lb, tomatoes on the vine 92p a lb, fennel 90p a lb, fresh apricots 80p a lb, strawberries £2.40 for a large punnet, home-made jam £1.99 to £2.40 for 540g jar, stilton £3.76 a lb, Lancashire £2.56 a lb, Lanark Blue £7.40 a lb, white loaf 45p, wholemeal 50p, fruit cake £1.90 a lb, chocolate sponge cake £2.25, smoked salmon £12.50 a lb.

## Tests point finger at fish products

### WEEKEND SHOPPING

FRESH salmon is cheaper than fish fingers, trading standards officers have found.

Somerset's trading standards department analysed the fish content in popular brands of fingers and concluded that as fish has become more expensive, manufacturers have wrapped it in thicker coating. The department said yesterday: "Gram for gram, fresh salmon is less expensive than the minced fish in fingers."

Announced offers include: Asda: British beef prime cuts 20 per cent off, turkey breast steaks £4.29 kg, new potatoes 99p for 2.5kg, nectarines and peaches £1.99 a punnet. Budegas: fresh pork sausages £1.99 kg, cucumbers 45p each, iceberg lettuce 45p each, large baguettes 29p each. Co-op: boneless rolled leg of pork £3.99 kg, wafer-thin honey roast ham 69p for 100g, fresh sardines 99p for 250g. Harrods: three-pepper terrine £1.49 for 100g, carrot and cauliflower terrine £1.49 for 100g, freshly cooked lobster £9 each or £17 for two. Iceland: lemon and pepper chicken breasts £1.99 for two, duck in cherry sauce £2.99 for 450g, cod Kiev 99p for 260g, salmon steaks £2.89 for 680g, raspberry pavlova £1.99 for 327g. Marks & Spencer: roast chicken breast fillets £3.99 for

four, leek and bacon quiche £1.49 each, ham and cheese spirals £2.49 for 12, English strawberries £1.99 for 300g. Morrisons: garlic bread 99p twin pack, Danone fromage frais 39p for 6x50g, whole trout £2.84 kg, plaice fillet £7.16 kg, oysters 39p each. Sainsbury: Richmond thick sausages £1.55 for 454g, peppered ham 65p 4lb, smoked haddock fillets £5.99 kg, salad onions 39p bunch, large pineapples 99p each. Sainsbury's: fresh boneless pork leg £3.39 kg, fresh bone-in lamb shoulder £3.29 kg, fresh silversteak £5.09 kg, smoked haddock £5.95 kg, large Galia melons £1.29 each, single peaches 29p. Somerfield: leg of lamb £6.59 kg, lamb chops £9.29 kg, pork escalope £6.11 kg, prawn cocktail £1.49 for 200g, courgettes 49p lb, sweet potatoes 69p lb, dwarf beans 99p for 250g. Tesco: boneless shoulder of pork £2.79 kg, half leg of lamb £7.39 kg, frying steak £6.89 kg, rainbow trout £1.87 lb, frozen cod in breadcrumbs £2.99 for 600g, large Galia melons 99p each, Waitrose: roast chicken legs £4.99 for two, roast turkey £1.99 for 200g, large dressed Cromer crabs £2.49 each, asparagus £1.99 for 250g, plum tomatoes 75p lb, vanilla soft ice cream 99p ltr.

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# Rower may have drowned after log knocked him out



The capsized Sector II floats adrift in the Pacific

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

THE last written words of a lone oarsman reached home yesterday as examination of his abandoned boat appeared to solve the mystery of his disappearance. A drifting 10ft log in the north Pacific is believed to have wrecked Peter Bird's £32,000 vessel as it battled through 30ft waves and left him unconscious with no chance to put on a survival suit.

The 49-year-old adventurer, who held two world rowing records, probably drowned. His last routine log and notebook entries, found in the capsized boat, were disclosed yesterday. One dated Saturday June 1 shows him in optimistic mood despite bad weather. "Partly illegible, it says: 'At last a firm SW wind. The gale arrived at last with a ... on SW ... not SE on wind. So we should have westerly wind for ... then easterly. Anyway it's good that I am

heading in the right direction for once and long may it last. Although the gale began ... in the south, it's passed to the west behind me as it were, this has produced the SW winds."

Japanese coastguards have abandoned a search and family and friends have given up hope that he will be found alive. Several logs were spotted in the ocean near his stricken boat, Sector II.

Mr Bird, from Fulham, southwest London, began his 4,500-mile voyage from Vostochy near Vladivostok on March 26. He was heading for San Francisco. In his fourth attempt to become the first oarsman to row the Pacific from Russia to the United States, his boat was found by the Singapore-registered cargo ship Westward Halla, which is now headed for Seattle with Sector II on board.

Peter Hogg, from Mill Valley, California, who is co-ordinating informa-

tion for the Bird family, has spoken by radio to the captain, who believed that damage to the wood-and-fibreglass boat was caused by one of the logs in the area. Captain Mohr was 60 miles from Sector II in force nine winds and 33ft waves when an aircraft picked up an automatic distress signal. It took four hours for the cargo ship to reach the boat. The bulkhead had been smashed and was lying flat inside the vessel — destroying its ability to right itself and allowing water to pour in.

Mr Bird's survival suit and life jacket were still inside, indicating that he had had no chance to put them on. "Sector II collided with a floating object that stove in the aft bulkhead," Mr Hogg said. "Peter was probably hit, because he did not have time to put on the survival suit in a situation where the viability of Sector II was seriously compromised."

Mr Bird's mother Joan, 78, paid

tribute to her son. She said: "It was a freak accident. Peter was doing what he loved. He was a professional, dedicated and single-minded about this voyage, and I have only the highest of feelings for him. It's going to be very hard to imagine life on this earth without him. Peter was one of those people everything was pleased to see. He lit up everything when he arrived."

Mr Bird lived with artist Polly Wickham and their five-year-old son, Louis. His mother said: "Polly is feeling very fragile — we all are. She has somehow to break the news to Louis. He was so fond of his dad."

A photographer by training, Mr Bird entered the record books in 1982 when he rowed the south Pacific from San Francisco to Australia. He had also spent more time in a rowing boat than anyone. On August 8, he would have achieved 1,000 solo rowing days at sea.



Bird began his Pacific crossing on March 26

## High climbing Briton beefs up for double helping of trouble

By BILL FROST

WITH the snows of Everest barely melted from his climbing boots, one of Britain's most fearless mountaineers is starting himself off on an attempt next week on two more peaks.

Alan Hinkes, who returned last week from the Himalayas for "some good old English roast beef", must keep himself short of oxygen for long periods to replicate conditions above 8,000 metres. Wearing an uncomfortably tight surgeon-style mask over his lower face, he takes four hours' strenuous exercise under medical supervision.

"I train on an exercise bicycle and a walking machine for about four hours at a stretch while technicians monitor my vital functions," he said. "It isn't very nice, in fact it is horrible, but then being on the mountain can be much worse."

Without such a rigorous regime, Hinkes, 42, would be ill-prepared for his attempt later this month to scale both Gasherbrum I and Gasherbrum II in the Karakoram. This spectacularly daunting range extends from the most easterly edge of Afghanistan to the state of Jammu and Kashmir in India. "I am



doing them back to back, as it were. They are both over 8,000 metres and the atmosphere is very thin at that point, so my system must be acclimatised — I must be mountain-ready. That's where the mask comes in."

Hinkes, described as one of the most brilliant of the new generation of climbers, says that he puts his mind into "cruise control" while training. "I try to turn off just as I would on the mountain. You are aware of everything all the same, but just don't think too much about physical discomfort."

He is the only Briton to have scaled six of the 14 mountains in the world over 8,000 metres. He hopes to climb them all. Mr Hinkes, who has seen three mountaineers die in avalanches, is well aware of the mortal danger

attached to his ambition. "Of course I have come close to death, but you cannot dwell upon that. You just get on with the climb."

His reaction to danger is anger, not fear. "I was caught in an avalanche on K2, the 'Savage Mountain'. Rocks the size of a deep-freezer were bouncing around. I felt not terror but fury and thought, 'These bloody things are trying to take my little daughter away from her dad!'"

After training behind his mask at the Yorkshire Clinic in Bingley, Mr Hinkes allows himself the luxury of "fine wine, a good roast, Yorkshire pudding and English cheese."

He dreamt of these indulgences last month on Everest and will again when he travels to the Karakoram. "That's why I came back to Britain. Instead of going straight there from the Himalayas, I am trying to enjoy myself mentally and enjoy some civilised company. Being on the mountain makes you realise that there is not really that much wrong with Britain after all."

Mystery and danger will continue to draw him to the high peaks as long as he is physically fit. "I climb to live — it keeps me sane and always drives me on."



Breathless Alan Hinkes trains for conditions he will face in the Karakoram range

## RAF helicopter tracks SOS signal to lorry on the A1

By PAUL WILKINSON

THE RAF launched an air-sea rescue when an orbiting satellite picked up a distress message from a ship's electronic emergency beacon.

But the crewmen aboard a Sea King helicopter who scrambled to trace the stricken vessel found the signal was leading them overland towards the Great North Road in West Yorkshire.

After a three-hour search, with the signal moving north, they tracked it to a lorry depot at Washington, Tyne and Wear. There the airman found the beacon in the back of a Parcelforce van, heading for a repair workshop on Tyneside. The beacon had been triggered accidentally as the truck drove up the M18 and A1(M) from Leeds.

Flight Lieutenant Mervyn Counter, the helicopter pilot, said yesterday: "We were sent inland rather than out to sea by our tracking system so it didn't take long to realise we weren't looking for a sinking ship. However, it was vital that we found it because it could interfere with genuine distress signals by blocking emergency channels in the area. We eventually managed to narrow it down to somewhere around the A1(M)."

The Sea King and its crew of four had scrambled from their

base at RAF Boulmer in Northumberland after a search-and-rescue satellite orbiting the Earth picked up the electronic pulse transmitted every 51 seconds from the beacon and alerted RAF Kinloss in Scotland.

The pilot said: "After three hours' flying we realised that we were getting close. Every time we picked up the signal we were near the depot so we landed in the field near by and went to investigate."

Sieve Worthingham, the depot manager, was amazed when two RAF flyers walked in and asked if they could look in the back of the lorry. He said: "It sounded like a joke at first but a Department of Trade and Industry man arrived with a hand-held scanner and we started to look through the trailer."

"It took us two hours to find the right parcel. It was only two feet long and eight inches in circumference. You wouldn't think such a small item could cause so much trouble. I was told the device operates on a trembler system which must have been activated because the safety catch had not been put on."

Keeping a Sea King helicopter in the air costs £4,000 an hour. It has yet to be decided who should pay for the search.

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'People are no longer prepared to put up with this sort of environmental damage'

## Battling shires oppose freight railway project

By JONATHAN PRYNN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

A REVOLT is being raised in the shires to kill off a proposed £3 billion private freight railway through the heart of England to the Channel Tunnel.

Backers say the 180-mile line from Rugby to Folkestone would take up to a million lorries a year off the roads. But residents and Tory MPs along the route say it would blight some of the finest countryside and thousands of homes.

The consortium, Central Railway, said the project would require no public money. The 300 largely uninvested shareholders have invested about £9 million so far.

A Bill introducing the proposal, the biggest rail scheme in Britain this century, is due to be put to the Commons by Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, next month or in the early autumn.

Sir Michael Shersby, Tory MP for Uxbridge, said: "There is huge opposition because of the terrible precedent this would create for the green belt. It is not a nimby issue. These proposals will transform the area as it is now into

an industrial development with all the noise and dirt that goes with it. People are no longer prepared to put up with this sort of environmental damage."

At least 20 MPs have said they will oppose the Bill, which is expected to be decided on a free vote. The Government is officially neutral, but there is little sympathy for the project at the Department of Transport. "The blight problem will be very serious and there are quite significant shortcomings in the financial backing," a source said.

A spokesman for Clare Short, the Shadow Transport Secretary, said yesterday that Labour opposed "this totally unworkable scheme".

The line would open in 2001. Most of the track would run beside existing passenger lines through Kent and Buckinghamshire, where Central would take over the existing Chiltern passenger franchise. It has promised new stations at Lutterworth, Rugby, Woodford Halse and Brackley.

The disused Great Central



Shersby: one of at least 20 MPs to oppose Bill

Railway from Princes Risborough to Rugby, axed in the Beeching era, would be reinstated. The only sections of new line would be a six-mile tunnel under the Thames from Shepherds Bush to Streatham, and a four-mile tunnel beneath the North Downs.

Trucks would be loaded at two depots, near Rugby and at Uxbridge, west London, and up to ten trains an hour, each a half-mile long, would run to

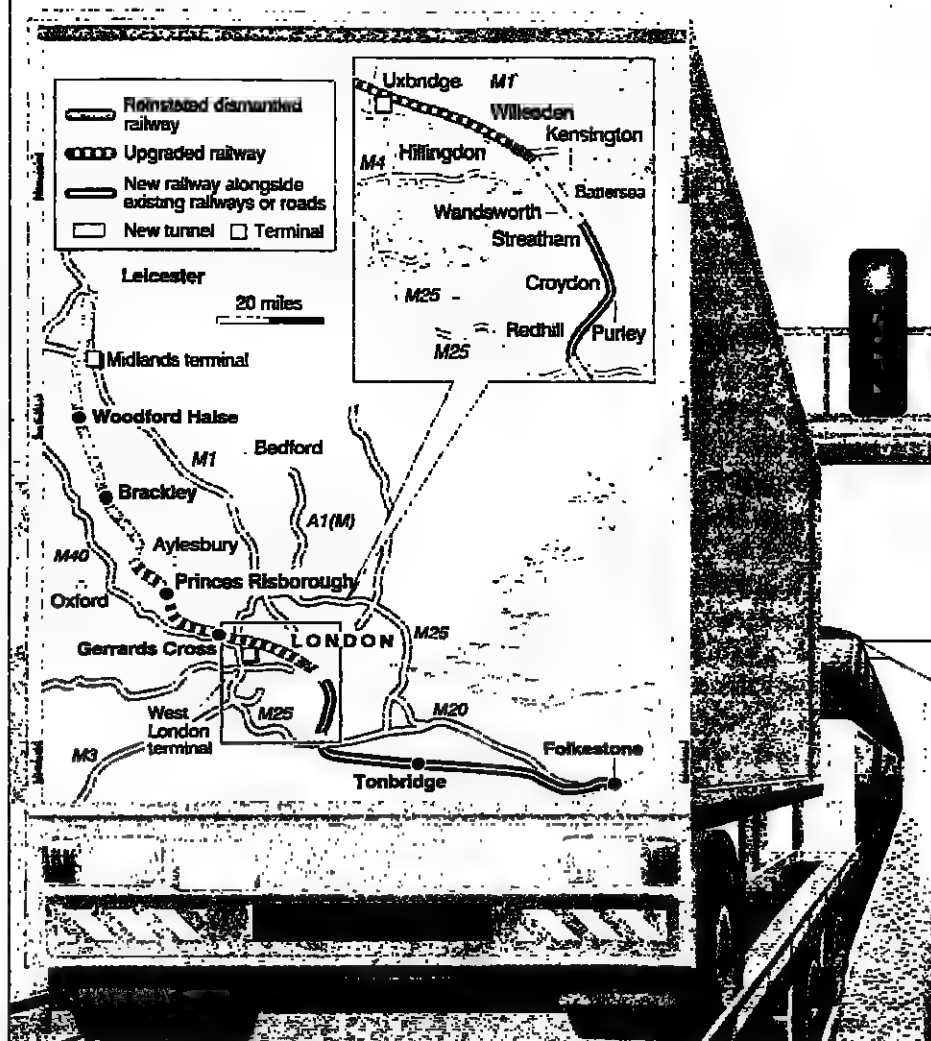
a depot probably near Lille in northern France. About 100 houses would be demolished and the value of thousands more would drop. Andrew Gritten, chairman of Central Railway, said the householders would be offered generous compensation.

Mr Gritten, a former member of the Centre for Policy Studies, said shareholders included well-known City investors and Mott MacDonald, the engineering consultants. The French railway SNCF was involved in the plans. A further £25 million would be raised by a share issue if Parliament approved the plan.

The vote will be the first big test of the 1992 Transport and Works Act, under which the Government is obliged to submit to Parliament schemes that are deemed to be of national significance.

If both Houses of Parliament gave backing there would be a public inquiry, with the final decision left to the Transport Secretary. A 42-day objection period, which allows the public to put criticisms to the Government and Central, ends on July 1.

### PROPOSED CENTRAL RAILWAY



## Transport advisers back tax penalties

By IAN MURRAY

NEW taxes to force private cars off the road and to penalise inefficient lorry use must be introduced quickly if Britain's transport system is not to clog up within the next decade, according to a report published yesterday by a government-backed think-tank.

The report said that deteriorating ecological, economic and social circumstances were likely to make "draconian State intervention inevitable" if trends continued.

The think-tank, set up by the Government after the Rio earth summit, is co-chaired by John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, and Professor Sir Richard Southwood, a former Vice-Chancellor of Oxford University. Called the UK Round Table on Sustainable Development, the group says it is the first to prepare a comprehensive strategy for coping with the environmental impact of transport.

Issued on the day the contract for building the Newbury bypass was granted, the report said public expenditure must move away from roadbuilding and switch to other transport modes.

## Peugeot workers walk out to block four-week break

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING EDITOR

NEARLY 3,000 Peugeot car workers are on strike because their French bosses want them to take off the whole of August.

The walkout is expected to mean lost production of 120 cars, worth almost £1.5 million, and could jeopardise future investment at the Ryton plant in Coventry. It raises echoes of industrial Britain 20 years ago, when car factories would strike over the length of tea breaks.

Night workers walked out last night and will be joined by the day shift this morning. They are striking because the obligatory August holiday means they will not be able to take any time off in September, when their wives and families working in local factories traditionally have a week's holiday. They say that, if they are forced to take August as leave, they are likely to spend most of their holiday alone.

Peugeot wants Ryton to conform to the holiday breaks taken by its sister plants in France, to ease problems in supplying components vital for assembly lines. Ryton workers already take three weeks' leave in August, but the French car industry shuts down for the whole month.

John McHendry, plant convener for the Transport and General Workers' Union, said yesterday: "There are two issues at stake here. The workers have relatives, perhaps wives and girlfriends who work and may not be able to take holiday in August. It

will be very inconvenient. Also there is the principle of the whole thing. They don't see why they should be forced to take this holiday just because it happens in France."

Ryton, on the outskirts of Coventry, is an outpost of Peugeot's empire. Although it builds the 306 model, it relies heavily on receiving parts, such as engines and body panels, from France.

Peugeot has told workers that the factory will close in August no matter what action they take. Workers are allowed five other days and can tot up extra days as holiday.

However, Tony Woodley, the union's national officer, gave a warning of further action unless Peugeot returned to negotiations. He said: "We are available for talks but official procedures have been exhausted."

Peugeot acquired Ryton in 1975 when it bought — reputedly for \$1 — the ailing British business owned by Chrysler. It has invested heavily in the plant and Ryton's workers have made big improvements in productivity.

The company is considering where to build the replacement model for the discontinued 205. New investment could be worth at least £100 million and would strengthen Ryton's position in the group. However, a series of strikes would almost certainly lead the French to decide that they would be better investing elsewhere.

### EUROPEAN HOLIDAYS

Southern European countries generally shut down for the whole of August, but in northern Europe the holiday season is more staggered.

The French like to take most or all of August off and some see Bastille Day, July 14, as the beginning of the holiday season. Visitors to Paris in August can often run into Americans and Japanese rather than locals.

Spain and Italy are usually "shut" in August. The consensus is that it is too hot to work.

Germany has a less rigid holiday policy. Many people go away in August, but not all factories close.

Sweden takes advantage of the long midsummer daylight by concentrating on July as the main holiday month. Schools break up in June and the children are back behind their desks by mid-August.

## Minister moves quickly to save bypass snail

By JONATHAN PRYNN AND NORMAN HAMMOND

A COLONY of rare snails is to be moved to a habitat away from the route of the Newbury bypass so it can be built without threat to them, the Government announced yesterday.

Announcing that the £74-million contract was being awarded to the construction firm Costain, John Watts, the Roads Minister, said in a written Commons answer that the Government would follow advice from English Nature, reducing the amount of land claimed from the Desmoullins snails' habitat and creating a new larger habitat.

Costain is to employ a security firm to patrol the site during the contract. About 75 protesters were camped nearby yesterday and hundreds



The Desmoullins snail: saved by English Nature

more are expected to arrive when earth-moving starts.

It was also announced that the Highways Agency had awarded a contract to the York Archaeological Trust to rescue part of a settlement, dated to between 4,000 and 5,000 BC, along the route. The contract also includes a full excavation to uncover and record finds at the core site near the River Lambourn.

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# Parties are closer on European policy than they pretend

The Tory and Labour parties both claim they have very different approaches to Europe. That was a central theme of Robin Cook's curiously patchy, though clearly pro-European, speech at Chatham House yesterday, in which what he did not say was striking as what he did. The two main parties do have sharply contrasting attitudes, but their policies are more similar than they pretend. That was admitted earlier this week by Douglas Hurd in a burst of post-ministerial candour. P.M.C. as it is known among commentators. In a speech in Paris intended to show that the Tory

approach is not an aberration, he gave warning "against any illusion that a Labour government in Britain, even if elected, might carry out a wholly different policy on Europe".

Admittedly, he said, "there is an important difference of opinion between the two main parties on the social chapter". Labour has yet to explain how its desire not to undermine the competitive position of industry can be squared with qualified majority voting which the chapter involves. The Opposition also favours a limited extension of QMV, not least to take account of enlargement.

## RIDDELL ON POLITICS

But, as Mr Hurd argues: "In other respects I would advise you to look closely at the fine print of the statements on Europe by Robin Cook and Gordon Brown, to analyse the composition of the Labour Party and to consider the advice which any British Government will continue to be constrained, and rightly constrained by the views of the British people, which are op-

posed to a superstate without being opposed to Europe."

Mr Hurd is partly right. Labour's statements are guarded. Like the Government, it would keep home, justice, immigration, foreign and defence policies as matters for inter-governmental co-operation by retaining the national veto. Labour's divisions are also not as large as the Tories claim. Apart from a hard core of mainly ageing sceptics, there is little opposition to the leadership over the IGC or social policy. The main argument is about the impact of the Maastricht financial criteria for monetary union for jobs. For most Labour

MPs, these matter more than Tory worries about loss of sovereignty.

Mr Cook was strangely silent on many of these issues. In 19 pages, there was hardly any mention of home or foreign and security policy and none at all of monetary union, the most important, and contentious, question facing Europe over the next few years.

Instead, Mr Cook talked about Labour's goals for enlargement (shared by all British parties) and for expanded social and regional policies. If Mr Cook was cautious on institutional matters and monetary union, he allied Labour firmly with the more interventionist mod-

el of European socialism. He said enlargement would require not only reform of the common agricultural policy but would "also be impossible without a substantial increase in structural and regional funds". He backed European socialist calls to amend the Maastricht treaty "to include the goal of higher employment to complement the existing targets on fiscal management". The financially cautious and pro-European Gordon Brown also emphasises the priority of tackling unemployment. While these goals may be necessary to sell Europe to Labour, there are potentially big price tags.

For all the enthusiasm for "social Europe", the real difference with the Tories is more one of attitude. If the battles within the Tory party since the late 1980s have produced a lowest common denominator approach, Labour in opposition can still present itself as a more positive partner, emphasising the undoubted advantages of Britain's membership of the EU. Mr Cook's talk of a fresh start is easy now given the Tories' disarray. As Labour's evasiveness over the beef ban has shown, a Blair government might be cautious in practice.

PETER RIDDELL

## Ministers strive to quell revolt over cash for disabled

BY ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Government is in danger of an embarrassing Commons defeat on Monday in the most serious test of its strength since its majority fell to one.

Tory rebels are demanding a clunkdown on part of a Bill that excludes disabled people aged over 65 from receiving a grant in lieu of community care services.

John Bowis, the health minister, was last night considering a compromise package to try to buy off the rebels, who have warned him they will vote against the Government unless they get their way.

The Community Care (Direct Payments) Bill allows local authorities to make direct payments to disabled people who prefer to make their own arrangements for the help that they need. But ministers have excluded the over-65s because they believe that local authorities would be swamped with applications, bringing the processing of payments to a halt.

Ministers have been accused of running scared ever since the Bill's committee stage, during which the Government suffered two defeats, was completed almost two months ago. But the government whips, aware of the prospect of a backbench re-

volt, delayed the third reading to coincide with the first day of the new Northern Ireland forum on Monday. They gambled that the Ulster MPs would stay behind for the historic first day's proceedings and rob Labour and the Liberal Democrats of maximum firepower.

But there were strong indications yesterday that six Ulster MPs might be in Westminster to vote against the Government. The whips will do their arithmetic at the weekend. If the calculations look grim Mr Bowis, who talked yesterday to wavering Tories, is expected to signal a last-minute retreat to save the Government's majority.

Mr Bowis was believed to be considering a review of the decision in 12 months but it would be unlikely to be enough to placate the rebels. The Tory MP Sir Andrew Bowden, chairman of the all-party parliamentary pensioners' group, said yesterday: "I fear that the Government will not completely remove the age discrimination rule, which is unacceptable. Unless I am given a concrete guarantee that the minister will introduce a time limit of no more than 12 months for removing the age discrimination barrier, I will vote against the Government."

The Tory whips have argued that the Bill, which has the support of charities and pensioners' groups, will be dead if the government is defeated on Monday. But the threat has failed to convince Peter Thurnham, another rebel, who resigned the Tory whip earlier this year.

Mr Thurnham said: "Nothing airy fairy will do. There has to be a specific and limited timetable for the removal of this unfair and illogical age limit. I do not believe ministerial threats that the Government is prepared to let this Bill die if it loses the vote. There would be an outcry."

Labour MPs will turn out in force. Tom Clarke, Shadow Minister for the Disabled, said: "Ministers are in disarray. They delayed the Bill's return to the Commons to coincide with the Northern Ireland forum. It's cynical manipulation at the expense of a disadvantaged group."

"They are now trying to come up with a compromise but are floundering. This is not only political mismanagement. This is causing immense concern to many of the disabled people who are keen to take up direct payments."

## Cook calls for fresh start after beef crisis

BY JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

ROBIN COOK called yesterday for a "fresh start" in Europe once the beef crisis is over to ensure that conflict is replaced with co-operation.

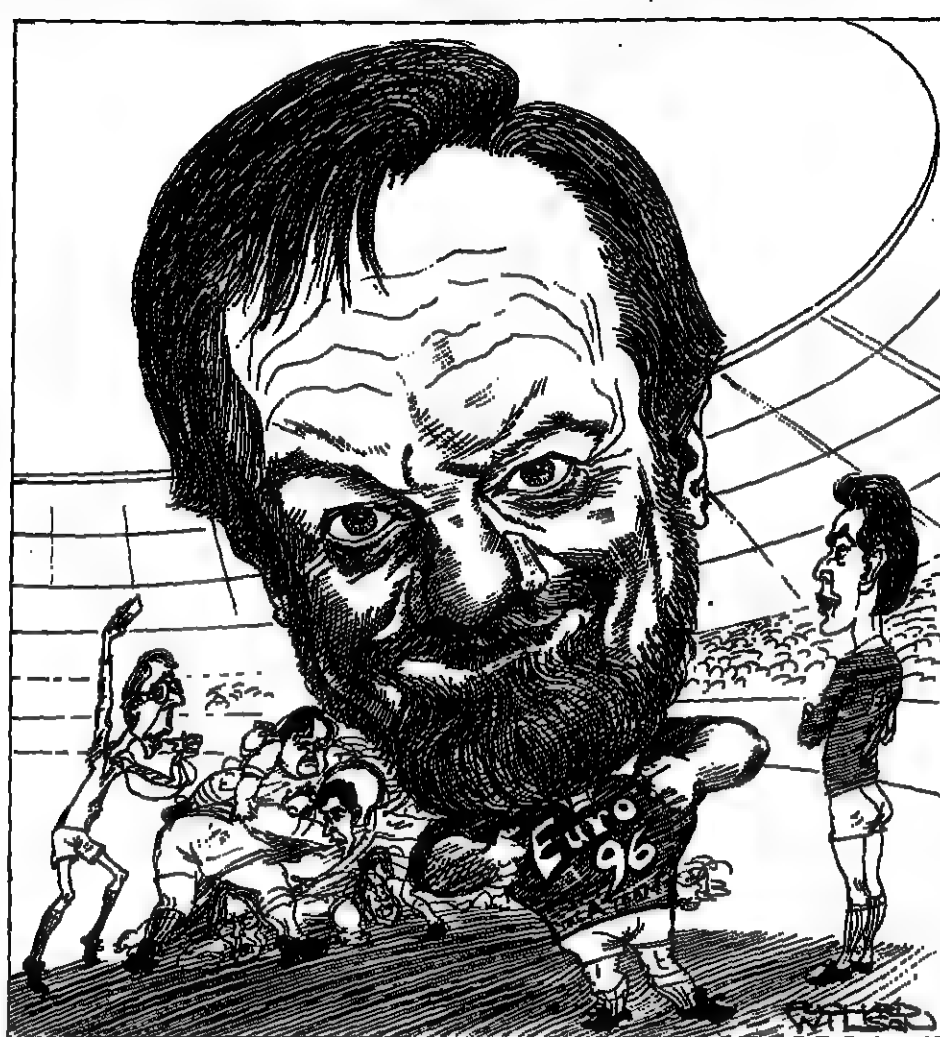
The Shadow Foreign Secretary doubted whether the Tories would be able to restore Britain's credibility in Europe or whether Tory backbenchers would allow the Government to drop its confrontational stance.

In a distinctly pro-European speech, he exploited the present unease — particularly among the business community — about the Government's non-cooperation policy to insist that Labour was the only party that could restore relations.

He told the Royal Institution of International Affairs: "Britain will need a fresh start in Europe after the beef crisis is over. I do not believe that the Conservative Government which has brought Britain into confrontation with Europe is capable of replacing conflict with co-operation."

Labour, however, would work within Europe constructively to reform the European Union in contrast to the Tories' policy of obstruction. "Labour can deliver a fresh start for Britain."

Although Labour has supported selective non-coopera-



tion over the beef crisis, Mr Cook's speech reflected evidence that the Government's policy is not working and has failed to boost the Tories' popularity.

He outlined three priorities for Labour's agenda in Europe: enlargement, tackling unemployment, and building a People's Europe. He made no reference, how-

ever, to Labour's position on a single currency or whether it would hold a referendum on the issue.

His speech concentrated instead on the importance of the social dimension of Europe. "If we are to restore popular support for the European project it can only be done by demonstrating that Europe can deliver on the issues of

real concern to its people," he said.

Labour would sign up to the social chapter so that British people were not left with the worst rights to consultation of any country in Europe. The party would also join in common action to improve the environment by tackling acid rain and North Sea pollution.

## Howells cool on windfall tax plan

BY JILL SHERMAN

A FRONTBENCH Labour MP questioned Gordon Brown's policy of a windfall tax on the privatised utilities yesterday, hinting that it was anti-competitive and would be difficult to implement.

The Shadow Chancellor has made clear that any extra public spending will be pegged to the size of the windfall tax, which is expected to raise £3 billion.

But Kim Howells, Labour's industry spokesman, is understood to have argued against the plan over the past few months. His remarks yesterday reflect concern among some MPs that the tax smacks of short-termism and goes against new Labour's aim to increase competition.

Interviewed on BBC Radio 4's Today programme, Dr Howells said that companies fearing the effect of the windfall tax "had a point", adding: "The windfall tax is a difficult one."

There was, however, a good case for saying that some of the utilities had had a very good deal because they were sold at too low a price. "I'm sure Gordon Brown will work out a way of making that tax work," he added.

Earlier Dr Howells told Labour "to get serious" about the need to make industry competitive if it wanted to save the last generation of jobs for youngsters.

## Tories deplore media's 'trivia obsession'

BY JAMES LANDALE

SERIOUS analysis of politics and current affairs is being crowded out by the media's obsession with personalities and trivia, a group of senior Tory MPs said yesterday.

Twenty-four MPs have so far backed a Commons early day motion, tabled by the former Chief Whip Tim Renton, deploring the "steep decline in serious reporting and analysis of politics and current affairs". The motion says there is an

"increasing emphasis on personalities rather than policies, and on trivia rather than substance". The MPs are urging newspaper editors to provide a more balanced coverage of public issues.

Mr Renton said the media were simply not providing the public with serious coverage of important issues, such as Europe and social security reforms. The debate on the beef crisis showed how superficial the reporting had become.

"It is easier to write, 'Is Hogg [the Agriculture Minister] going to get the

chop?' rather than talking about the serious relationship between BSE and CJD and other issues," he said. "We want to put over the heartfelt message that we think the serious stuff is being crowded out in the rush for circulation."

Several former ministers, including Tom King, David Howell and David Hunt, have signed the motion. Some of its supporters, however, such as Michael Brown, Tim Devlin and Sir Jerry Wiggin, have at some stage been subject to acute media scrutiny of their personal lives.

## MPs seek curb on benefit losses

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Social Security Department was criticised by MPs yesterday over the billions of pounds lost through welfare benefit fraud, overspending and inaccurate payments.

MPs on the cross-party Public Accounts Committee demanded tighter checks on the incidence of benefit fraud, estimated to be costing £2 billion a year. About £1.4 billion is lost in fraudulent income support claims.

The MPs were disturbed that the department did not know the scale and pattern of fraud on other benefits, and they called for reviews to uncover the information.

They were also "dismayed" by the number of income support errors. "We consider it unacceptable that these should amount to £848 million in 1994-95, or 5.1 per cent of total expenditure. This extraordinarily high figure includes £546 million of cash overpayments — public money which should not have been spent — and £183 million of cash underpayments — errors which may have caused real hardship to claimants. We look to the department to do much better in future."

The MPs were "disappointed" that the department had overspent in 1994-95 for the third year running, spending £183.8 million more than forecast on income support.

## IN PARLIAMENT

TODAY in the Commons, a debate on sport followed by a backbenchers' debate on dementia care. The House of Lords is not sitting.

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# FBI to investigate Clinton demand for 'Travelgate' files

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

LOUIS FREEH, the director of the FBI, yesterday dragged the Clintons deeper into the political abyss by ordering an investigation into why the White House had demanded background files on the director of its Travel Office seven months after he was dismissed.

Said to have been stunned by Republican revelations that Bernard Nussbaum, the former White House counsel, had requested and obtained 30 years of FBI material on Billy Dale, the Travel Office director dismissed by the Clintons, Mr Freeh said he had asked for a "thorough inquiry". The bureau investigation, results of which will be sent to Kenneth Starr, the independent counsel on Whitewater, brought a chorus of criticism from Republicans.

Mr Dale and six of his colleagues were dismissed from the Travel Office in 1993, soon after President Clinton assumed office. The President's opponents have argued that Mr Dale was the victim of efforts by the First Family to give business to a company owned by Harry Thomason, their close friend.

William Clinger, the Pennsylvania Republican and chairman of the House government reform and oversight committee, said the memo from Mr Nussbaum demonstrated "a vexing abuse of power engaged in by the White House".

Mr Nussbaum, who was himself ousted in 1994 for involvement in the doomed Whitewater land deal in Arkansas, issued a statement denying that such a request had been made by anyone in the White House. On at least



Dale: dismissed with six of his colleagues

one page, dated December 20, 1993, and stamped "The White House", the former counsel is shown to have asked for the FBI background check.

Eight days later, the same document was returned with the bureau's report and a cover note which stated: "In response to your request, there are attached 11 letters and 11 memos and reports which may relate to the subject of your inquiry".

The White House said Mr Dale's records might have been sought mistakenly to complete unfinished information folders on former employees, but Mr Nussbaum's original memo said they had been requested because Mr Dale was seeking "access" to return to the Administration.

Mr Dale, who claims he was blacklisted from the building after he was indicted on embezzlement charges — accusations on which he was acquitted last year — yesterday denied he had ever tried to return to Washington.

"What do you expect from them?" he asked. "You catch

them red-handed and its the same old story — they say they did nothing wrong."

The Nussbaum documents emerged among 1,000 pages distributed by the White House to Mr Clinger last week as part of the Clinton Administration's efforts to provide Congress with 43,000 pages relating to "Travelgate".

Although the White House has furnished his committee with most papers, the Administration has fuelled Republican critics still further by making its first claim of executive privilege over the remaining 2,000 pages.

The latest scandal over "Travelgate" came as Republicans accused their Democratic colleagues of a cover-up after they refused to grant immunity from prosecution to David Hale, a former Arkansas banker and the only prosecution witness directly to have accused the President of criminal activity.

The Senate Whitewater committee agreed to subpoena Mr Hale for a deposition before Congress today to question his allegations that Mr Clinton had pressured him for an illegal \$300,000 (£195,000) loan. The claim has been denied by the President.

Mr Clinton, who gave sworn video testimony in the trial of his Arkansas associates, Jim Guy Tucker, the Governor, and Jim and Susan McDougal, was facing further questions yesterday about his involvement in other land deals in Arkansas after it was revealed that Mr Clinton bought a 20-acre piece of land from Jim McDougal in 1977 but failed to mention this acquisition during the taped testimony.



The Princess of Wales takes to the floor with Michael Wilkie, an American bachelor who seized the opportunity and asked her to dance at a charity event in Chicago.

The Princess, who yesterday concluded a three-day visit to the Windy City, accepted the spin at a million-dollar fund-raising event. The party Mr Wilkie, who dared to request the dance, runs a chain of do-it-yourself stores. The Princess also danced with Phil Donahue, the television chat show presenter.

## DIY dance for Princess

Wearing purple wool crepe with matching handbag and high heels, the Princess was attending a charity dinner for 1,300 guests who paid between \$500 (£320) and \$2,500 for tickets. The dinner was held at Chicago's Field Museum of Natural History, and enjoyed the backdrop of a dinosaur and two stuffed elephants. The Princess's visit created much excitement and, despite curmudgeonly

comments from a couple of columnists in yesterday's *Chicago Tribune*, can be judged a success.

Typical of the reactions was that of an elderly, near-toothless woman who announced from a crowd of onlookers outside the Princess's hotel: "My, she's so beautiful!" Another spectator, Lori Shilling, 37, said she had taken three days off her work as a computer programmer to follow the Princess's

visit. She considered it time well spent. The sentiment was shared by business tycoons, politicians and celebrity-watchers who turned out for the rose-showered ball, attended by stars such as actor Gene Wilder, singer Gloria Estefan and comedienne Joan Rivers.

The Princess had only three dances. Mr Wilkie was said by a friend to have sent four dozen red roses to her hotel with a note saying he would be at the ball, sporting a red carnation. She danced with him briefly until another man took the third dance.

## Chinese make test ban offer

FROM AGENCY FRANCE-PRESSE IN GENEVA

CHINA said yesterday that it is ready to make a "major concession" and agree to a ten-year ban on peaceful nuclear explosions. However, the pledge came as reports in Japan said Peking was planning a new nuclear test.

Envoys to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva are racing against the clock to conclude a comprehensive test ban treaty by June 28. China's Ambassador, Sha Zukang, unveiled proposals for a temporary halt to testing if the issue is re-examined ten years after the treaty comes into force. Western diplomats said China's offer was inadequate, while the environmental group Greenpeace accused Peking of holding the treaty hostage.

However, Wu Dawei, Minister-Counsellor at the Chinese Embassy in Tokyo, was quoted as telling Social Democratic Party officials that China would conduct a nuclear test soon.

## South Carolina dig unearths earliest European settlement

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK



Chester DePratter, left, and Stanley South

ARCHAEOLOGISTS have found the oldest European settlement in the United States, a French fort built in 1562 on a low-lying island off South Carolina. It is currently a US Marines golf course.

The location of the garrison, named Charlesfort in honour of the 12-year-old French King Charles IX, has long baffled historians. The settlement was referred to in a journal written by its Huguenot founder, Jean Ribaut, but its whereabouts were unknown until two archaeologists from the University of South Carolina found pieces of 16th-century French ceramics on the Parris Island site.

The fort only lasted a year, but its presence forced the Spanish to think more seriously about colonising the New World. Charlesfort was built 45 years before the English settled at Jamestown, Virginia, and predated Spain's St Augustine township to the south by three years.

Chester DePratter, co-leader of the Charlesfort dig, said yesterday: "This is the oldest

European garrison we know of. The Spaniards were in southeast Florida in 1526 but we do not know where they built, if anywhere."

The adventurous Ribaut stayed briefly at his fort before heading back to Europe to fetch supplies and more emigrants. In his absence, things deteriorated. The settlers started to argue, particularly when food supplies dwindled.

After 11 months there was a mutiny and the survivors returned across the Atlantic in a boat whose sails were bed sheets. The only Frenchman to remain in America was an 11-year-old boy named Ruffi who opted to stay behind with the Orista Indians.

Spaniards later built a military base near the site of

Charlesfort, which was probably originally chosen by the French because it offered potential as a place from which to ambush passing Spanish treasure galleons.

Ribaut, who on his return to Europe was jailed in the Tower of London during a diplomatic tussle, wrote lyrically of his fort as "one of the greatest and fairest havens in the world".

The oblong fort was equipped not only with a moat but also with gun platforms at each corner. The fortifications were made of wood, straw and earth.

Mr DePratter speculated that the French were given the land by the Indians, who themselves had moved on to other, drier ground as high

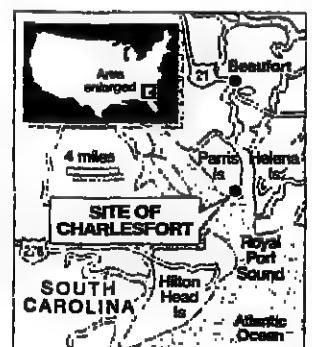
tide half of the island was under water. The French arrived in May, when the local climate is balmy and evocative of Provence.

The landscape was wooded, with oaks, magnolias, and hickories, but a central savanna provided agricultural land and probably allowed the settlers to grow a few vegetables to accompany the occasional raccoon or possum that they may have managed to catch.

Mr DePratter began his search for Charlesfort in 1979, and has since then been scouring sites along the East Coast of the United States.

"We're pretty cock-a-hoop to have found it now," he said, on behalf of his university colleague Stanley South.

Once the archaeologists have concluded a forthcoming excavation, it is likely to become a tourist site or, if the Marines groundsmen has his way, it will be grassed over and will return to being a strangely rutted, oceanside golf course.



## Woman jogger falls prey to Central Park jungle

BY QUENTIN LETTS



The victim: fighting for life after sex assault

NEW YORK'S Central Park is again being cast as an untamed jungle in the middle of the city after a violent mid-afternoon attack on a woman.

The victim, who was last night close to death in hospital, appeared to have been jogging through the park at 4pm on Tuesday when she was set upon and sexually assaulted. She was less than 100ft from a busy Manhattan street, within normal hailing distance of nannies with infants and tourists taking snapshots.

Police have no idea who the woman is, for she was carrying no identification when she was found in a pool of blood and facial disfigurement. Her head is horribly bruised. Across America, on hearing news of the attack, parents with daughters in New York telephoned to check all was well.

Muffled screams were heard from the victim, but no one rushed to help. Three nannies who were minding their charges at the Diana Ross playground saw a man running away from the scene of the attack. He was described as being Hispanic or light-skinned black, in his late teens or early twenties. Witnesses heard a heated argument earlier between a man and a woman.

Fifty detectives were assigned to the case and Rudolph Giuliani, the Mayor, busied himself in the investigation, ordering an \$11,000 (£7,150) reward for information. Central Park attacks, though few, have a special

resonance with New Yorkers, not least for the shocking contrast they provide to the park's natural beauty.

At this time of year it is deep green, offering shade to joggers, rollerbladers and tourists taking rides in open carriages. Street violence seems a world away.

Two men, one of whom had boasted to a friend that he had mugged a woman in the park, were questioned by police but no arrests were made. The attack took place on the west side of the park, opposite 81st Street. It is an area close to some of the city's best-appointed

flats, grand mansion blocks such as the Dakota, where John Lennon was shot, and the Hayden Planetarium. It is also, chillingly, near the site of a 1986 strangling which became known as the "preppie murder".

Semen was found on the clothes of this week's victim. Fingerprints were taken to see if they matched any on the national crime data base, but they did not.

A police artist visited the Cornell Medical Centre to sit by the victim's bedside and draw a picture of how she might look without her wounds. The resulting sketch caused one father, Michael Wallack, to rush to the hospital fearing this was his daughter. Apparently she was not, although the injuries were so grievous that Mr Wallack could not be entirely sure.

The case has been an unwelcome reminder that police have not yet solved the death last autumn of a woman who was jogging soon after dawn in Central Park.

Ironically, reported crimes generally in New York fell by a third last year, and this spring three weeks went by without a single incident reported to the park police.

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## Britain offers support to Bahrain's sheikhs

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR, AND ALISTAIR LAWSON-TANCRED IN BAHRAIN

BRITAIN yesterday expressed "great concern" at Bahrain's announcement that it had uncovered an Iranian plot to overthrow the Government, and gave "full support" to the Gulf island's rulers.

The announcement came after a fresh wave of arrests brought the number of detainees to more than 50. Sheikh Muhammad bin Khalifa al-Khalifa, Bahrain's Interior Minister, said that 34 had already confessed to a judge. Six have admitted on television that they were trained in Iran and Lebanon to overthrow the ruling family.

The Foreign Office made no mention of the arrests, which Shia opposition groups claim are part of a general crack-

down on demands for greater democracy and rights for the Shia majority.

"We have a vital interest in peace and stability in Bahrain, a close friend and ally, and condemn any interference, by Iran or others, in its internal affairs," the statement said.

Ambassadors from the five permanent UN Security Council members were called in by the Government on Tuesday and shown what was claimed as proof of Iranian plotting. Britain's statement does not endorse the claim that Iran was responsible. But London has previously dismissed opposition claims of oppression as exaggerated, and has been reluctant to criticise the al-Khalifa family.

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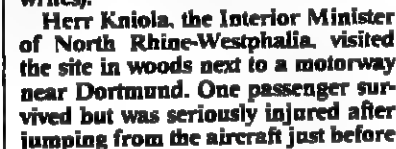
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**FROM ANDREW FINKEL IN ISTANBUL**

Welfare engineered three separate motions in parliament calling upon Mrs Ciller to be investigated for corruption and into the sources of a personal fortune that exceeds well over £33 million. Two of the votes attracted Mr

Turkish business has surprised even itself in moving along without effective government since Mrs Ciller's last coalition fell apart in September. However, few observers believe that Turkey, with inflation still running at more than 70 per cent, has yet reached the position of Italy where a state bureaucracy could manage independently of government.



it hit the ground. Unconfirmed radio reports said the pilot of the military Bell UH1D tried to land on the motorway, then aimed for a clearing in the wood, but his rotor blades hit the trees. Six of the passengers were young people aged between 19 and 21, attending a youth festival called You 06. They had won their flights in a

## crash kills 13

prosecutors also began an investigation. Both of the helicopter's crew, who were aged 38 and 36 and said to be experienced, were killed. The other passengers were a nurse and members of camera teams belonging to two private television stations, Pro 7 and RTL2.

The helicopter had taken off from a Dortmund sports and exhibition complex. The youth festival was abandoned after the accident.

## BY THOMAS DE WAAL

After a Buddhist blessing ceremony, Anatoli Karpov, the former Soviet world champion, opened the 20-game tournament against Gata Kamsky, the Russian *émigré*, for a title that is not even recognised by the chess world as a whole.

The bizarre occasion is the brainchild of Kirsan Ilyumzhinov, the eccentric President of Kalmykia, who is also the new President of FIDE, the world chess federation.

Mr Ilyumzhinov is in competition with Garry Kasparov, the rival world chess champion and his own breakaway organisation, the Professional Chess Association.

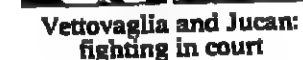
Chess column, page 42

**FROM SEAN HILLEN IN BUCHAREST**

**A SECRET,** steamy love affair between a former Swiss ambassador and his young mistress, an alleged member of Romania's secret service, has become a widely publicised courtroom battle over who owns the bed sheets and pillows they romped in.

national political journalist, has almost completed her book on the affair, entitled *Love and Espionage*.

To add even more spice, the nation's largest selling daily, *Evenimentul Zilei*, has sued the Swiss Foreign Ministry in Berne for defamation after officials wrote in a communiqué that Ms Jucan was a member of the Romanian secret service and she posed a threat to Swiss national security. Ms Jucan has challenged the lawsuit, saying that



The disgraced former envoy, who has been married for 26 years, has not commented

**Bujumbura:** Aid agencies agreed to suspend work in Burundi for a week from today in respect for three dead Swiss Red Cross staff, and condemned their killings as assassinations. (Reuter)

**Buenos Aires:** Vast property assets and a fortune of up to £300 million is to be shared by 35 nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews of an Argentinean who died leaving no wife or children. (AFP)

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# Reports of Pol Pot's death leak from hideout

## Architect of terror 'falls to malaria'

FROM TOM WALKER  
IN HONG KONG

POL POT, the Marxist revolutionary whose Cambodian "killing fields" claimed nearly two million lives, may be dead.

According to independent reports from Peking, Bangkok and Phnom Penh, the leader of the notorious Khmer Rouge died earlier this week, probably from malaria. He was 68 and had not been seen in public since 1978, when the Communist Vietnamese invaded Cambodia and put an end to a four-year reign of terror which had virtually taken the country back to the Middle Ages.

Early yesterday the Cambodian Defence and Interior Ministries leaked messages saying Pol Pot was near death. Hours later a Thai journalist working near Aranya Prathet, on the Thailand-Cambodia



Pol Pot, murderer of millions, and a mass grave near Angkor Wat symbolising the era of terror he dominated



border, reported that he had met Khmer Rouge infantrymen who told him they were on their way to Pol Pot's funeral at his stronghold of Phnom Malai, just inside the Cambodian border. A third report, emanating from Pe-

king, said Pol Pot had died on Monday. Sources in Phnom Penh last night said they believed the reports to be true, but were awaiting further news from the Ministry of the Interior. "Our guy in Aranya Prathet has not made a single

mistake in a year and a half," said a journalist with AFP, the French agency which broke the news.

The reports have culminated two months of speculation over Pol Pot's health, which began when King Norodom

Sihanouk, the semi-deity who holds Cambodia's fragile social fabric together, announced in Paris that the Khmer Rouge struggle would wither once their leader had died. If the reports are confirmed, historians will have a

difficult job piecing together the life, times and motivation of a man as reviled in the public psyche as Hitler. While brutal, Pol Pot was a secretive individual; even after he came to power it took analysts more than a year to identify him with certainty as a former schoolteacher named Saloth Sar, who had been secretary of the Cambodian Communist Party since 1960.

Liberating the capital from the hated, American-backed Lon Nol regime, Pol Pot quickly went about his vision of a Cambodian "Year Zero," in which the cities were emptied of their inhabitants and intellectuals and the middle classes almost eradicated. His legacy was a vast agricultural labour camp where terror and indoctrination were the rule, immortalised by the film *The Killing Fields*.

The Khmer Rouge still numbers about 5,000 guerrilla fighters, based mostly along the Thailand-Cambodia frontier. The leadership of the party is likely to pass to Khieu Samphan, who ironically is known to be in touch with King Sihanouk. In the convoluted history of post-killing fields Cambodia, the royalists have frequently colluded with the Khmer Rouge in their fight against Communism.

## Master of secrecy who led Cambodia into 'killing fields'



James Pringle looks back on a charismatic leader who possessed the hypnotic charm of a cobra. Those who listened felt enlightened

BROTHER No 1, as Pol Pot is known in the Khmer Rouge movement, is a political survivor, though even survivors are not immortal. He has had malaria off and on for years and received treatment for the illness in Bangkok.

This time, however, the attack may be fatal, given that he is forced to live in the rainforest about ten miles inside Cambodia, at Pailin, the nominal Khmer Rouge headquarters.

Officially, he retired as the main military tactician and commander when he was 60. Even to the Khmer Rouge and their then Chinese backers, his image as a murderer who brought the "killing fields" to Cambodia was too black to accommodate as the rebels tried to widen their international appeal. At that stage, he was reportedly in reasonable health, although a right-hand man, Ieng Sary, said: "He lives in the jungle, and anyone who does that gets malaria."

Few will mourn his passing, least of all his first wife, Khieu Ponnary, who became mentally ill in the 1980s and is believed to be in a mental hospital in China. But two people, his second wife, a peasant woman and Khmer Rouge militant in her late thirties, and their daughter, a girl now about eight, will presumably grieve.

A byword, along with Hitler, Stalin and Mao, for the worst cruelties of the 20th century, Pol Pot has always believed in secrecy. "Secret work is fundamental to all that we do," Pol Pot wrote. "For example, the elections of comrades to leading work are secret. The place where our leaders live are secret. As long as there is a class struggle against imperialism, secret work will remain fundamental. Only through secrecy can we be masters of the situation and win victory over the enemy who cannot find out who is who."

Despite his lack of scruples and the brutality of the movement he headed — the Khmer Rouge was known as "the organisation" in Cambodia, where it governed from 1975 until overthrown by invading Vietnamese in 1978 — Pol Pot has been a man of charisma, with all the hypnotic charm of a cobra.

King Norodom Sihanouk



Sihanouk: he believed Pol Pot was mad

of Cambodia, who was once Pol Pot's prisoner, talked in an interview of a three-hour conversation he had with the Khmer Rouge leader, even as the Vietnamese closed in on Phnom Penh, the Cambodian capital.

"I knew he was mad," he said. "But he talked so well, in such a spellbinding way, that I could not help listening to him without interruption."

A Khmer Rouge defector once said: "Those who hear him feel enlightened by his teaching, his explanations and his vision. He is like a father to us."

Pol Pot, who neglected his studies in radio electronics and failed his exams three times in Paris in the early Fifties, built up a network of intellectuals influenced less by Marx than by Mao and his peasant-based revolution, manifested in what proved to be China's disastrous "Great Leap Forward".

Pol Pot used to speak of a "Super Great Leap Forward", and agrarian experiments in Cambodia led to famines worse in proportion to those that afflicted China. Cambodians were forced to eat frogs and insects they found in the

**‘We have to make ourselves like the poorest of the poor, then the people will love us’**

fields. Even eating fruit and especially rice, deemed to belong to the "masses" at large, met with instant execution.

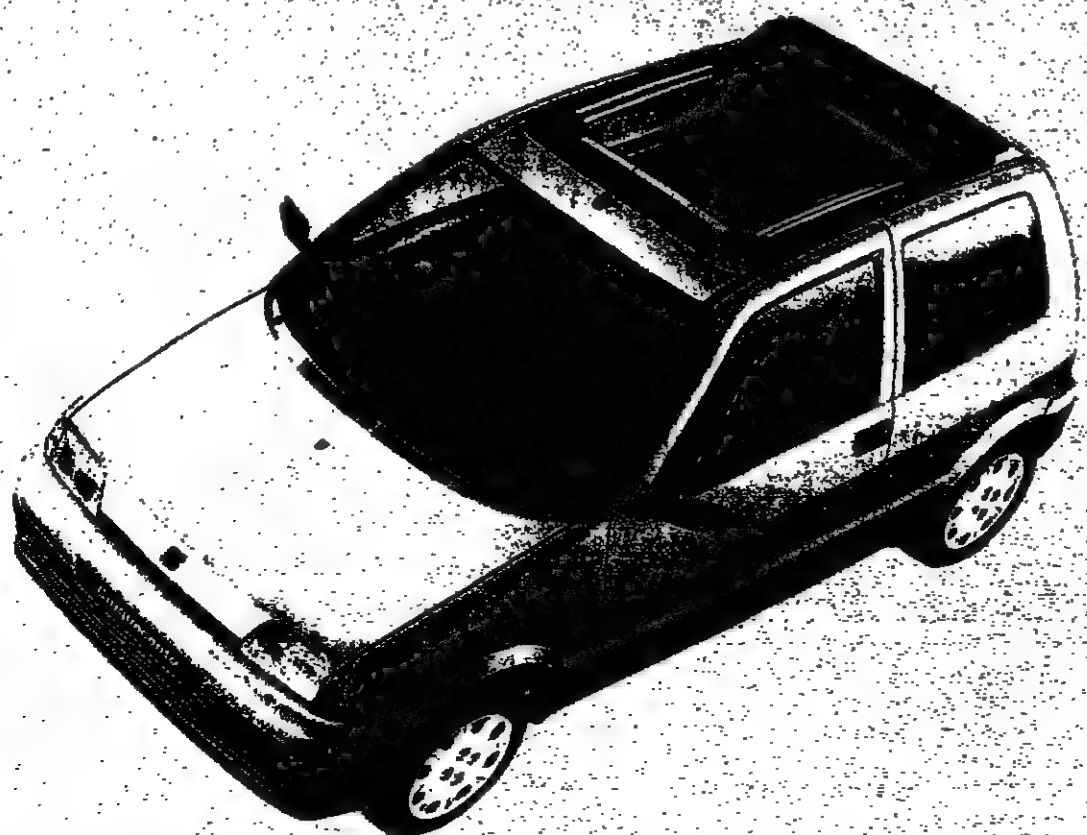
One of the strongest influences on the Khmer Rouge and Pol Pot was the French philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau, especially his *Social Contract*, where he wrote: "Man is born free and is everywhere in chains."

"We must put ourselves in the same position as the poorest of the poor, then the people will crowd round us and love us," Pol Pot would say.

But Pol Pot enslaved the Cambodian people in the end, so that those who wore spectacles and used tooth brushes were led away for execution by teenage soldiers as "bourgeois elements".

Even near the end, Pol Pot believed his policies leading to an ethnically pure peasant society were right and would have succeeded except for "sabotage" — he actually believed he should have killed more people. "I was too trusting of others," he said.

It will take time to persuade most Cambodians that Pol Pot is dead or near death. His demise, after all, has been announced many times before.



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Soviet nuclear testing has made northeast Kazakhstan into enclave of the damned

# Moscow turns a blind eye as birth defects multiply

FROM MAX EASTERMAN IN SEMIPALATINSK

THREE years ago, when I first visited the villages around the former Soviet nuclear test site in northeast Kazakhstan, I saw the horrors of teratogenic births: children with no eyes, grossly oversized heads, mentally incapable, and a host of other defects.

There were scores of them in the settlements close to the Polygon, as the test site was called. And then there were the thousands more who were aborted, their remains preserved — many in old Exide battery jars — in the Medical Institute in Semipalatinsk.

Publicly, the Russians insisted that radiation was not the cause; it was malnutrition and other "lifestyle defects". The thousands of cancer deaths they attributed to "brucellosis" and "pneumonia". Three years on, the link between birth defects and expo-



A lake used for nuclear waste 30 miles from Sarzhai

sure to radiation has been "conclusively proved" by Boris Gusiev of the Semipalatinsk Radiology and Ecology Institute. Professor Gusiev has laboured under conditions that would have defeated most — salaries paid up to six months late or not at all, and no access to years of research information held by the Russians. But he is in no doubt that what he is now seeing — a constant level of deformed births four to five times higher than the norm, is due to exposure to radiation: it is now affecting the fourth generation in many families.

I heard first-hand testimony of the cynical approach of the Russians to local Kazakhs, in Sarzhai, about a mile from where some of the tests were carried out. I met the former

Mayor, Murat Khan Khorghanbaev. He told me how the Russian military would appear a few days before a test, take readings and then vanish again, telling people to stay outside at a certain time in case the buildings collapsed. After the test, they would return with doctors from Semipalatinsk and take skin and flesh samples from a hand-picked group of villagers. They also examined their thyroids. "We were just Moscow's guinea pigs," said Mr Khorghanbaev, "and they didn't care what happened to us. We were never consulted about the test site or anything else. Only two of those 30 'guinea pigs' are still alive — the rest are in the ground."

They lie there alongside nearly 600 other radiation

victims from Sarzhai. The attitude of the Russian authorities, who took all their diagnostic equipment and research data home when the test site closed five years ago, angers Boris Gusiev almost more than the damage done to local people.

He admits that Kazakhstan has few experts capable of analysing the millions of files the Russians hold. "But Kazakhstan is a poor country and we could save so much in time, money and effort if only the Russians would open up those files and put their own specialists to work with us. It could be another five generations before the radiation damage begins to work itself out of our genetic systems."

Recently a group of ex-Polygon scientists did publish some information about the nuclear tests, but this is dismissed by Professor Gusiev as hypocrisy. "The data is so fragmented, it's a sop to the public, but half-facts like this are no use to us experts. I can only assume they really don't want us to know the truth."

The Russian reluctance to help their former Kazakh compatriots now contrasts with the gradual realisation in America that there is important information to be gleaned



A toddler, two, from the Semipalatinsk area, who is suffering from immuno-deficiency and thyroid cancer

from victims of the Soviet tests. The American military put up the money two years ago for Saim Balmukhanov to investigate.

Professor Balmukhanov was one of the first doctors to examine test victims, back in the Fifties, before the KGB shut him up. He has just sent the results of his latest research to Washington. "Radiation," he explained, "has done more than just kill

people and deform them. It is destroying their immune systems, and this immuno-deficiency is being passed from generation to generation."

In Sarzhai, as elsewhere, children are born with greatly reduced resistance to disease. The local schoolteacher told me how they are constantly ill, constantly tired and almost all severely anaemic. The tiniest of cuts can take weeks to heal. Many families cannot afford



Misha, nine, from the Semipalatinsk region. He has leukaemia and two cancerous growths in his mouth

to travel to Semipalatinsk for basic treatment. Their local hospital was closed as an economy measure.

Professor Balmukhanov has no idea how long the immuno-deficiency will take to run its course. "Without treatment, we just can't tell. And there's no money, no equipment, no drugs for the right treatment." He has an even worse fear: "We know there's a lot of plutonium in the soil around

the test site. But we've no equipment to measure the levels, so we've no idea what that's doing to people."

"But it must be having some effect: it only takes a minute particle to cause a cancer, and it'll be around for more than 20,000 years — that's its half-life."

Max Easterman reported from Kazakhstan on BBC Radio 4's The World Tonight.



## Obedient Tartar voters prepare to endorse Yeltsin

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL IN KAZAN

WHEN President Yeltsin arrives here on Sunday, he will get the royal treatment. He will cut the tape opening a new concert hall and be the guest of honour at the Tartar festival of Sabantuy, a Muslim equivalent of the Highland Games.

It is a sharp contrast to the situation three years ago, when voters in the autonomous republic of Tatarstan boycotted parliamentary elections en masse.

But now Tatarstan, like dozens of other Russian regions and institutions, has done a deal with Mr Yeltsin and is marching in step behind him. Taken together, regions like this may make a crucial differ-

ence for the President in his fight for re-election. Tatarstan, an oil-rich region 500 miles east of Moscow, has about three million voters — more than 2 per cent of the electorate.

Moscow for most of 1992 and 1993, before an autonomy agreement was signed in February 1994 that gave Tatarstan substantial economic rights to dispense with its oil revenues but kept it firmly within the Russian Federation.

The pay-off for Mr Yeltsin from such deals has been political support in a region of Russia where the local leader is in a position to deliver votes. Last December in Tatarstan, after President Mintimer Shamiyev endorsed the pro-government party Our Home is Russia in the parlia-



mentary elections, it received 29 per cent of the vote — three times the national average.

"Tatarstan is a rigidly controlled republic," said Yuri Nikolayev, editor of Kazan's biggest newspaper, Kazanskoye Vremya. There was no

need to falsify the vote in the republic, especially in the villages, because people did what they were told, and any official who stepped out of line risked losing his job.

"Imagine what happens when the President gives orders to the heads of administration in villages to agitate for the elections," said Mr Nikolayev.

In villages and collective farms, many voters just wait to be told what to do on polling day. "I always vote," said Marusya Fatzakhmanova, a 73-year-old Tatar woman peeping out of a headscarf, who came from a village on the other side of the Volga. But at first she did not know how she was going to vote this time. "For Yeltsin I suppose, who else is there?" she laughed.

A similar story is unfolding in another rigid Russian institution, the army. For more than two million conscript soldiers and sailors, the suspicion is that on polling day a senior officer merely instructs the ranks how to vote and they act accordingly.

General Pavel Grachev, the Defence Minister, embarrassed the President on Wednesday when he announced that sailors voting early on Arctic cruisers and submarines had all voted for Mr Yeltsin.

The mass of votes guaranteed to Mr Yeltsin by such practices inspires cynicism in many voters. "They've already voted for us," said a young worker standing at a Kazan tram stop. But he said that he too would probably back Mr Yeltsin.

## Khrushchev missile chief tells of scare

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN MOSCOW

IN A risky Soviet test that was kept secret, a nuclear-tipped missile flew over populated areas before landing in the Central Asian desert, a Russian newspaper reported yesterday.

The RSM missile with a 0.3-kiloton nuclear warhead was launched in February 1956, during the Khrushchev era, from the Kapustin Yar testing range near the southern Russian city of Volgograd.

The daily *Trud* quoted Yevgeni Shabarov, a missile designer who took part in the

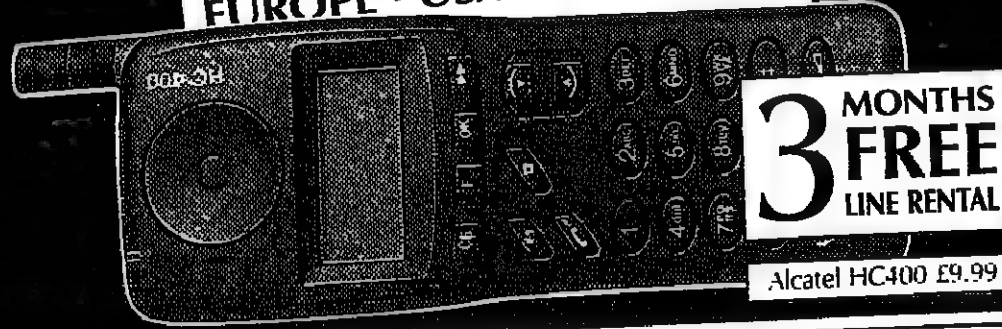
launch, as saying that the missile had flown 740 miles over southern Russia and Kazakhstan before hitting the targeted site in a desert 90 miles southeast of the Aral Sea, in Central Asia.

"When the experiment ended successfully, we all breathed a sigh of relief," Mr Shabarov said. Experts were ready to send a radio signal to blow the missile up if it strayed off course. The device used for that was "far from perfect, but there was nothing better".



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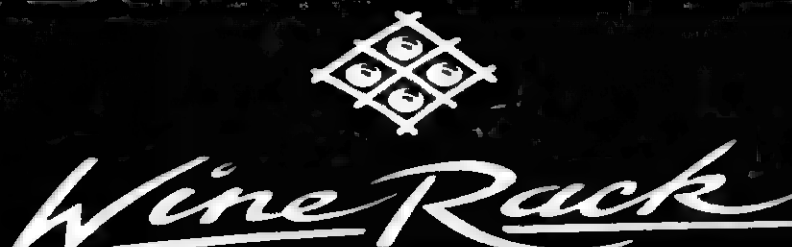
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# A woman men like to fall back on

Eleanor Bron's first novel is an everyday story of theatre folk, which will have readers guessing at its characters' real identities

The elusive Eleanor Bron has invited the glare of exposure by writing her first novel. It is a love story set in the theatre, with an actress heroine named Bella who is "cool, sharp-witted, amused, a little removed", and it is therefore destined to be labelled a *roman à clef*.

She says it isn't, but friends tell her they see in Bella a lot of Eleanor. Bella, whose grave eyes fix the lens with a candid stare, embodies "intelligence and sex appeal". A virgin at 28, she is assumed to lead "the charmed life of a fairy-tale princess", though colleagues privately think her "a slightly snooty student with a tendency to put people's backs up".

"She is a bit of a prig," Bron says, with a level look under her dark brows. "And there is a side of me that is like that. But she lacks a sense of humour." Which Bron does not.

The first sign of Bron's presence is the bicycle chained outside Broadcasting House: female, mauve, with basket. This has replaced the adventurous Moulton on which she once rode through France as described in her first book, *Life And Other Punctures*. She tends to erupt into print every five years: this novel, *Double Take*, was actually begun 15 years ago.

Bella is "pained" by fellow actors' behaviour — "It was as if they were moral imbeciles. They were inconstant, deceitful, pleasure-seeking, treacherous. This one went off with that one's partner; friend betrayed friend."

Donald, the actor who marries Bella and then deceives her, strikes me as being a bit like the late Robert Stephens. "No, but there is something in his autobiography which was a trigger — when he was obliged to tell Maggie he had been unfaithful."

"I don't think I am censorious," Bron says. "But I do think there is an imbalance in the way men and women behave. Partly because men get about more than women, even if in the theatre there is more equality. I do understand Donald's fallibility: everybody

## THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW



would like to have two lives. You want to be known and loved the way your family love you, but it's terribly confining, so Donald also wants someone who sees him as new, magic and wonderful."

When Bella and Donald become a golden couple, some are "nauseated by the sight of so much success."

"People who become very successful, especially when it goes with a lot of money," Bron says, "do remove themselves into a different world and it becomes difficult for old friends who think 'Oh well, they won't want to see me any more'. Even I have got to that stage, in the past, when people said 'I didn't think you would remember me'."

The Bron combination of brains and beauty and what she calls "the snooty look that always had me lining the walls at dances in my teens" used to unnerve people, who expected her to make crushingly satirical remarks.

"I do use incidents from my life — but that's what you do in a novel. For instance, my mother telephoned me one morning to say that an ex-boyfriend of mine was getting married that day, and she didn't want me to read it in a newspaper first. I was very touched."

One review of her book was headlined "Love life of the luvvies". "I so loathe that word luvvies. I just feel it's a lazy handle, like chattering classes or champagne socialists."

Despite her reticence, Bron has revealed much about her-



Eleanor Bron's private life remains strictly private: her home and telephone number are out of bounds to journalists even though she has lived in the same flat for 20 years

self over the years. Ten years ago she published *The Pillow Book of Eleanor Bron*, subtitled "An Actress Despairs". It was an occasional journal and commonplace book (based on that of Sei Shonagon in 10th-century Japan) of observations and *aperçus*. Sometimes she just listed "things that fill you with reluctance" and "things that fill you with virtue", which are the same list: "ironing, exercises, making dental appointments, not eating, writing letters". On her thirtieth birthday: "What relief! A

kind of freedom beckoning: certain things will not be expected of me, some questions need no longer be heard, like marry or not marry. I feel that from now on I shall be without apology."

It was revealing, but also discreet: the lovers were all named John. Christmas and New Year's Eve would often find her alone. No fewer than three men had said to her: "If in ten years' time we are both still free..." She concluded that she was the kind of girl men like to fall back on.

She no longer keeps her pillow book, but wishes she did. "I know one is always thankful for having written something down. You say 'Oh I'll remember that', but you won't."

Her home and telephone number are strictly beyond journalistic bounds. She has lived for 20 years in Harley Street, in a flat piled with newspapers she means to read, and books, "and silly little things. The more silly they are, the harder they are to part with. I still have several orange boxes I moved in with. If I had any sense I would have painted them by now and made them amusing."

"And I've had the moth. An aviary of moths, or whatever moths are en masse. They've nested in the carpets and eaten some lovely clothes, including the only good things I have, hand-knitted by a friend. There are times I can't bear it, but where would I find something I liked as much? If your prince came... I said, 'My prince would have a palace, wouldn't he. But I'd keep my moth-eaten flat for when he wasn't as nice as he seemed at first. During the ever-after.'"

She was engaged once, in America, to a cross between D.H. Lawrence and Abraham Lincoln, the editor of a small magazine. "We fell out in Washington because of a blizzard which forced us to spend half a day together."

He has said that what she likes best in a man is being able to make him laugh. Invited, once, to devise her ideal dinner party, she decided she would hold it on the *Flying Scotsman* and invite, inter alia, Chopin, Turgenev, Sappho, Studs Terkel and the architect Cedric Price. Occasionally I glimpse her cloud of hair across a crowded room: once at the House of Commons, at a party given by Mark Fisher; last Friday night among many thespians (Ralph Fiennes, Alan Rickman, Prunella Scales) at *The Designated Mourner* on its penultimate night at the Cottesloe. It was her second visit, to admire her old friend Mike Nichols.

Bron was once the British Elaine May to John Fortune's Mike Nichols — "but we weren't as sharp and witty as Nichols and May". Nor did they improvise, as was often supposed. "I don't think on the whole actors are playwrights."

At Cambridge, Bamber Gascoigne wrote her a part in a Footlights smoker. Cambridge broadened her mind so much that she felt "like Alice" in her suburban home in Edgware; she "could hardly squeeze through the door-jamb". For the next ten years — famous headline: "A Star Is Bron" — she would work alongside friends from her glittering generation: Peter Cook, John Fortune, John Bird, John Cleese, Michael Frayn, Jonathan Miller, Christopher Booker. People

'What I've come out with is not really the kind of writing I admire — which is something more spare'

under 40 may not remember her in *Not So Much A Programme, More A Way Of Life*, or at the Establishment Club, but they will know her from the Beatles film *Help!* (Pillow book: "I was impressed last night by my own clear ugliness on the great screen. It makes me feel almost merry — released at last from some obscure obligation. What? To struggle to be lovely?")

"A novelist friend once said 'I know myself exactly', I said 'God, I could never say that.

I'm constantly getting surprises. Seeing myself through other people's eyes. Which is why I suppose I'm always trying to see what people look like to themselves."

She once sent me a card saying "Today I eat — tomorrow I die" and says she has given up the struggle (shape indefinable under drapes). She drank plain water and ordered something called a vegetable strudel, which she barely touched. When the waiter cleared our plates, she told him in sweet and gentle tones: "Please tell the chef it was absolutely disgusting."

Though she has played all the classic roles, often at the National, people outside the theatre often wonder what became of her; her agent suggested she should list in *Spotlight* the roles she had turned down, far more numerous than those she accepted.

She has just done Albee's *A Delicate Balance* at Nottingham. Next she is in *A Perfect Ganesh* by Terence McNally at the West Yorkshire Play-

house. This week she was recording the audio-book of Joanna Trollope's new bestseller.

Writing her own novel was "absorbing" but chastening. She describes her curiosity as "a poor sluggish undernourished creature" and finds having to describe people a pain.

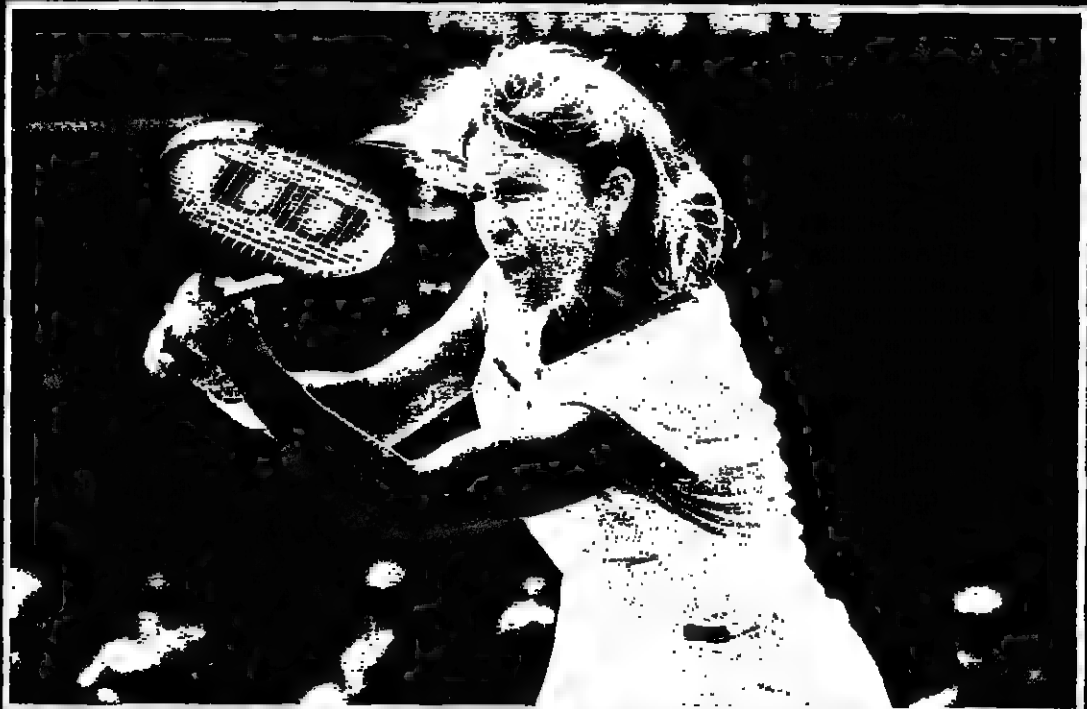
"Once when John Fortune was ill, Michael Frayn very kindly agreed to write with me, and I think he found my method unacceptable, because I didn't construct, or know where the characters were going. Whereas he's the omniscient author, in such command, and the sketches he wrote were like jewels, finely crafted and polished."

"And what I've come out with is not really the kind of writing I admire, which is something more spare. I read an interview recently with a novelist who said fiercely that there are too many books, there is no point in writing a boring one, you really have to justify writing one. That gave me a terrible twinge."

WEEK TWO

THE SUNDAY TIMES

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## Philip Howard



## Farewell to the good companion of my early morning walks

Heather died shortly after dawn yesterday. She was a week short of her eleventh birthday: in human proportions 77. She fell over outside the fishmonger's at Notting Hill Gate, panting hoarsely and looking puzzled. So I picked her up tenderly, with frantic forebodings, and carried her home. Her daughter and granddaughter did not help by tugging at their leads, confused by this unprecedented change in their routine. She lay on the sofa panting. And then she stopped panting.

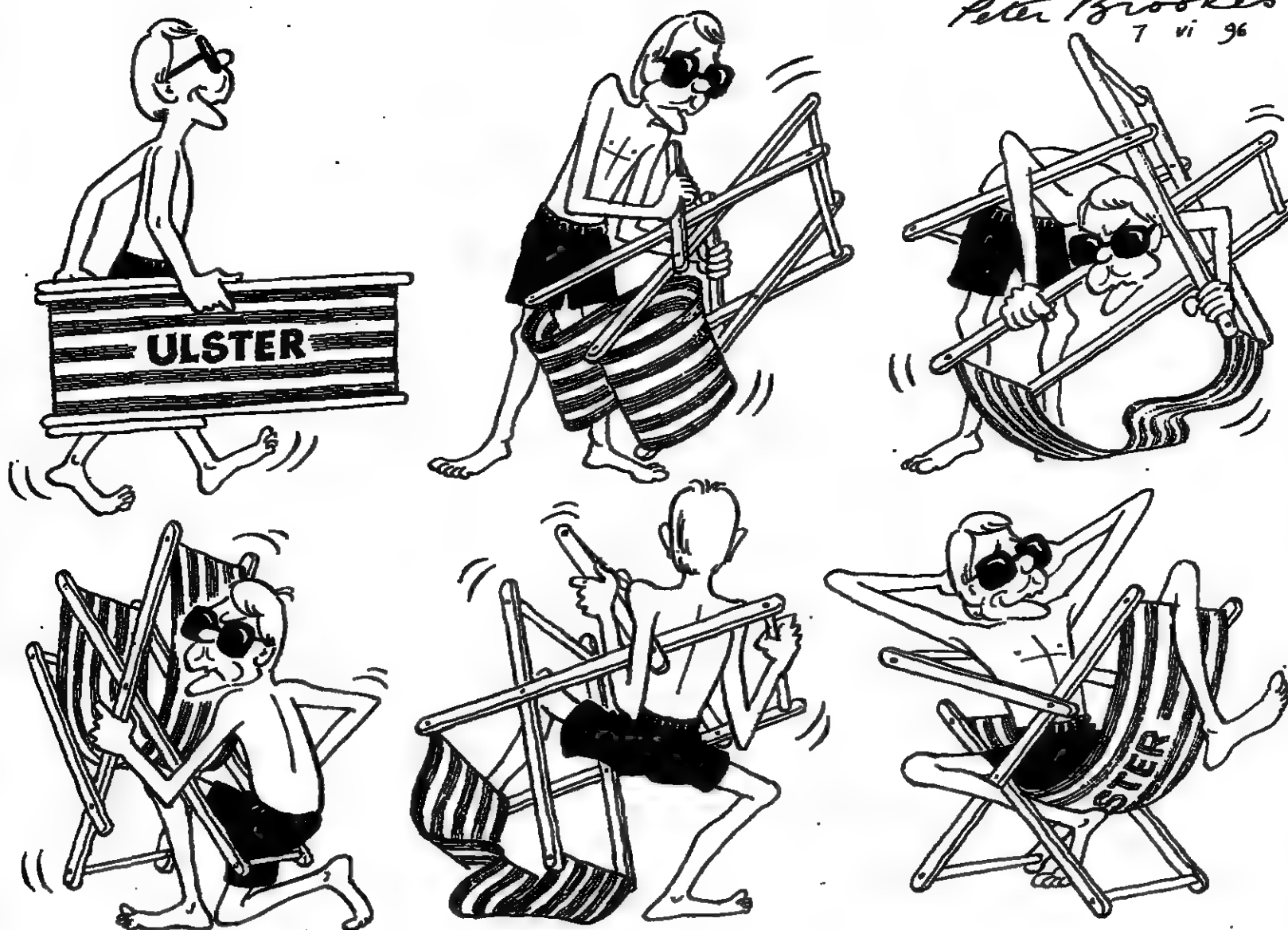
In the daily balance of grief and pain, the death of a skinny Jack Russell weighs infinitesimally. Heather started no wars, sat on no committees, made few sound bites. She seldom even yapped — an abnormality in Russells. In geopolitical terms her most notable achievement was to have cleared the Canada geese from the Round Pond in Kensington Gardens. With her daughters and granddaughters she had got the notion that she was a policewoman with the duty of chasing the squirrels up the trees and the geese off the grass. The flock of 300 geese has now given up and moved elsewhere. Even such tough birds could not put up with being roused every morning by a dive-bombing attack by a pack of tiny yappers. When her progeny were staying, there were six Russells ineffectually chased by a tall man flapping *The Times*. I also suspect that the proliferation of 30 swans on the Round Pond, about to be joined by five new-season cygnets, squeezed the *Lebensraum* and competition for bread even for Canada geese.

Heather was born in June 1985 in the byre of Glen Crosh, a shepherd's house on the sugarloaf hill outside Montrose. This is the Dumfriesshire heartland for Blackface sheep, Collie dogs, and belted Galloways that win at Smithfield. She was smooth-haired, black-and-white, and then the size of my thumb. She was selected ahead of her brother on the ground that in all breeds of animals (and humans), bitches are easier to live with than dogs, and less likely to wander off and cause trouble. So she was taken away from her rabbit-warren hills to live in W11.

And she adapted well to her traumatic migration from deepest country to inner city. Every day of her life at dawn she perambulated the parka clockwise, from Peter Pan to Queen Victoria. Unlike some of her daughters and granddaughters, she liked strangers and other dogs. Snipe, the Scottish cousin, jumped for the throats of rotweillers in her terror, which was as foolish as a human scissor-kicking a *Tyrannosaurus rex*. Heather posed, wagging her stump of a tail, for the camcorders of Japanese tourists. They took her for a bonnet dog smaller than any they had met. She learnt not to run straight for a squirrel, but to try to cut it off from its tree. Her dark daughters never learnt this, and think that yapping at the foot of a tree will make squirrels fall out. Occasionally she caught a squirrel, and brought it back for her friend, covering his suit with blood and him with confused excuses to Green Scandinavian joggers about there being too many squirrels in the park anyway. She was a flirt, especially with the late Anthony Quayle's Tiger and a sparky French *bichon frise* called Merlin with a passion for Russells.

She was a wonderful mother, giving birth to Haggis and Daisy under the desk while her friend was under the lash writing a column, so providing an unusual excuse for late copy. She suckled and played with her grandchildren into old age, and earlier this week was wagging her bottom optimistically at dogs 50 times her size. For a Russell, she was placid and amiable. Except when, sitting on her friend's knee, she would dart at any infant that approached with apparently rowdy intentions, and peck him with her nose to teach him better behaviour. But never bite. Though you should never take that for granted with Russells.

Brothers and Sisters. I bid you beware of giving your heart to a dog to tear. We buried Heather wrapped in Black Watch tartan. She is survived by numerous puppies and grandpuppies, and her tradition of man's best friend. She caused less harm and more pleasure than most humans. And if you ever meet a tiny, pretty urban Jack Russell that smiles at you instead of barking, that will be one of Heather's. Goodnight, old dog. And flights of squirrels swing thee to thy rest.



## A world without manners

Gentility may die with my generation,  
but thanks to the likes of Digby  
Anderson it will not go unmourned

That indefatigable man Digby Anderson, together with his cohorts, has recently put out a substantial volume with the remarkable title *Gentility Recalled*, and the subtitle *Manners and the Making of Social Order*. But perhaps I should say a word or two for those who do not know Digby and his splendid army. He is the head of a group called, most mellifluously, the Social Affairs Unit and the Action Institute for the Study of Religion and Liberty, and the previous book in the series is called *The Loss of Virtue: Moral Confusion and Social Disorder in Britain and America*.

*Gentility Recalled* has work by 11 pairs of hands, plus a foreword, and the names and essay titles make very clear what kind of book this is. Here they are:

Digby Anderson. The Little Things that Matter: Trivia and the Maintenance of Social Order.  
Caroline Moore. Being a Gentleman: Manners, Independence and Integrity.  
Rachel Trickett. Being a Lady: The Protection of Courtesy.  
George Martin. Speaking Properly: The Need for a Shared Vocabulary.  
Anthony O'Hear. Knowing Your Place: Manners between the Generations.  
Athena S. Leoussi. Keeping up Appearances: Clothes as a Public Matter.  
Simon Green. Playing the Game: Sport and the Learning of Manners.  
John Sheehan Reed. Flirting and Deflecting: Southern Manners.  
Robert Grant. Respecting the Truth: Manners in the Academy.  
Bruce Charlton. Keeping Your Distance: Manners in the Surgery.  
Michael D. Aschiman. Running a Respectable Household: Habits of the Home and Social Order.  
H. Tristram Engelhardt, Jr. Why Do We Because That's What We Do: Manners in the Ruins of Communism.

Now a mere glance down that list will show that the authors are all unhappy, and indeed much more than unhappy, about the way the world is going, at least in the areas of decency, honesty, courtesy, law and order, cleanliness, and — I steel myself to say the word, knowing that vast numbers of people do not know what it means — manners.

This book, *Gentility Recalled*, speaks of a time in which gentility not only existed but — and throughout all the layers of society — behaved as though gentility was something to go by. Manifestly, that has disappeared in its entirety, and the authors are not so foolish as to think that that world will

come again, but they want to discover why it died, and they also want to study what it has been replaced by. I also want to know why the world has changed so much and so dreadfully, and I sought the answer from *Gentility Recalled*. At that point, I was going to start my investigation, but I was stopped not so much in my tracks as in my stupefaction, for my eye had caught a tiny "cut" in the *Times* *Telegraph*: a child had called out "My dad couldn't get into his flat; they said they'd smash his head in if he tried," and that threat had also been made by children.

Now, *Gentility Recalled* is not made only of disappointments, it has to face — and I also must face — a world in which the children are criminals. So I went on reading about these children of 14, who steal, smash cars, smoke drugs openly, and cannot be apprehended. Well, well, we all know about crime, and we are sufficiently grown-up to shrug when *Gentility* is under discussion. But we must look at the word *Recalled* as well as *Gentility*, why, and how, did our world turn into something in which "An average of one secondary school head is assaulted every week by the father or mother of a pupil... One Hampshire teacher whose face was gashed by the mother of a 13-year-old boy said: 'Despite the fact that this woman was fined £50 by the local magistrates for the attack, her son is still in the school. She stormed into my classroom, shouting hysterically. Then she flew at me, clawing at me with her fingernails for two or three minutes, and I saw blood all over my shirt.'"

Very well; just how is *Gentility Recalled*? Well, take me and my coevals. In a train, for us not to offer a lady a seat — indeed our own seat — would be quite impossible. Similarly, it would be impossible not to stand when a lady comes into the room. The same goes for a lady and gentleman walking

on the pavement together; the gentleman would instantly take the outer side. Oh, and therefore it is obvious that a lady always goes first.

Now I know that that last paragraph will be regarded as lunacy. Indeed, in some quarters it is now regarded as impudent and offensive. I cannot help it: that is what I learnt as a child, and I cannot, and will not, unlearn it until I die.

Call it my generation, call it respect, call it duty or whatever you like, but when, only a year or two ago, a lady to whom I was speaking casually said that that very morning she was travelling in the Underground, and not only did a man fail to offer her a plainly vacant seat but pushed her roughly out of the way to get to the seat for himself, I found it almost impossible to believe that such a thing could happen.

Yet, for some — I am one — gentility is recalled. What is more, we are not talking about something in far-off days; the thing has happened within just a few years. The writers of *Gentility Recalled* all knew that their cause was lost before they started to recall it; indeed, they quite realise that in another few years nobody reading *Gentility Recalled* will understand it.

The question is: whence comes the demoralisation of society in the modern era? That it has happened no one can possibly deny. Very well; but why did it happen? Yes, the diminution of culpability has done it, but I ask again, where did the diminution come from?

Was it money? Kingsley's marvellous riposte would be very faint today: "Let the rich be as rich as they will, I, and those like me, covet not money but manners." Anthony O'Hear puts it: "plainly when he says 'Acting one's age' better a young fellow than an ageing trendy," and goes on to say:

... far more foolish, and far more dangerous to society as a whole, is it when the

middle-aged — who, after all, should have the experience and wisdom to know better — comport themselves as if they were young: when they dye their hair, have their faces lifted and wear baseball caps back to front (or even the right way round) and shell-suits and trainers: when they buy exercise bicycles, jog in public and go ten-pin bowling and listen to pop on Walkmans: when they go to wine bars and discuss with their secretaries: when they talk to the young as if they, too, were young.

Some time ago, when I was among a group of friends, the talk turned to clothing, and then specifically to jeans, their usefulness or clumsiness or cheapness. From a pause in the chatter, a friend murmured: "I don't think we shall ever see 'Bernard wearing jeans.' The friend was right, but why was she right? The chapter on dress in *Gentility Recalled* is quite startling in its meaningfulness: dress is important — not for showing off, nor to be one of the boys, I always don a dinner jacket and stiff shirt for Covent Garden, and that has always been because it gives me extra pleasure through the opera. But Athena Leoussi (her chapter in *Gentility Recalled*) makes it much more than that.

And Simon Green goes further: his contribution is about cricket, and if you think that cricket is not sufficiently important or significant, what do you think the phrase "It's not cricket" means? For that matter, why do you think Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister of Zimbabwe, says: "Cricket civilises people and creates good gentlemen. I want everyone to play cricket in Zimbabwe; I want ours to be a nation of gentlemen." (If I may stir the pot, let me remind you that Mugabe is savagely hostile to homosexuality.)

Reading this catalogue of *Gentility Recalled*, I find it impossible not to mourn. Again and again, I turn the pages for this wonderfully full story — a story that has died. Digby Anderson is as tough as they come, but such a gentle title is enough to bring tears to Digby's eyes, and for that matter mine.

Everything changes: I am not such a fool as to think that gentility was likely to stay for ever, but I rage when I read such words as Digby's: "When a later generation abandoned manners as 'repressive' or 'bad faith': it gave itself up to selfishness unbridled by thought for others. That sort of selfishness, in fact, makes everyone less free." Gentility, they name is besmirched.

## BSE: our interests come first

Malcolm Rifkind  
on the fruits of his  
tough diplomacy

Douglas Hogg and I are this week visiting European Union countries to discuss the BSE crisis. The ban on British beef products is now being lifted, and our talks in Brussels and Rome have opened up the possibility of an overall framework agreement over the next two weeks. This may be the turning point.

We are now setting out our ideas for the next steps. We recognise that some consumers in Europe are worried about the safety of beef. So our first message is about the extent of the measures which we have taken and are taking to combat BSE and to protect human health. These are set out in comprehensive documents which we have issued this week, including a detailed programme for the eradication of BSE, so there can be no misconception about the extent of the measures we have taken.

The second point which we have emphasised to our partners is that we need to agree a framework for step-by-step lifting of the overall ban. I welcome the result of the Agriculture Council on Monday, at which a majority of member states supported the Commission's proposal to lift the ban on some beef products. It is good that the Commission will formally end that part of the ban on June 10. It will then be up to member states to ensure that that decision is implemented.

But we now need to move on. We believe that the entire ban is unjustified and unnecessary. We are challenging its legitimacy. The ban has the effect of undermining confidence in beef as a product, so it is self-defeating. The strategy of others in banning British beef has not worked. The Germans are not only not eating British beef; they have stopped eating German beef as well. So a European strategy is needed to resolve a European problem. But we know it is not realistic to expect all member states to agree to lift the whole ban at once.

We therefore propose a series of steps which we are sure consumers in Europe and beyond will understand are reasonable and entirely safe. For example, there are herds of cattle throughout Britain which have never had a case of BSE and have been fed only on grass, so avoiding any possible contact with the contaminated feed which spreads the disease. It should be possible to lift the ban on these cattle soon.

We are not asking other European countries automatically to accept what we say. The lifting of each part of the ban can be linked to the effectiveness of the measures which we have introduced and their certification by the Commission. If the health experts aren't satisfied that our measures are working, then we must show that our measures are appropriate.

In our talks in Rome, the Italian Government, which holds the EU presidency, accepted this framework approach, and committed itself to work actively with the European Commission to reach an agreement if possible before the European summit in Florence on June 21. Veterinary and scientific experts will be consulted.

Meanwhile, our policy of non-cooperation in the EU stands, and will continue until we agree a framework. We embarked on this policy in order to jolt some other countries into recognising the gravity of the problem and the need to come up with sensible solutions.

This is not the first time that a member state has refused to co-operate on something it feels to be of key importance. De Gaulle did so in 1965: other countries — including the French, Spanish and Italians — have done so in different ways since then. We are not issuing threats: we are not trying to blackmail anyone, but we cannot allow our interests to be brushed aside.

We made clear at the outset that there might be exceptions to the policy of blocking EU measures requiring unanimity. We have already blocked 56 measures. But I announced in Rome that, as a gesture of goodwill to the Italian presidency, the Commission and others who have been helpful to us, we would not block approval of an association agreement between the EU and Slovenia, which comes up on Monday. This agreement is relevant both to our Balkans policy and to the EU's eastwards enlargement. This is a matter of particular importance to the Italians, and it makes sense in the sort of difficult and sensitive negotiation in which we are engaged to make this gesture in the national interest.

Douglas Hogg and I have engaged in some straight talking this week. We don't want a policy of confrontation. We deplore attempts to whip up anti-European sentiment. But we need to continue our tough diplomacy.

This week we have found other European governments interested in British ideas and ready to listen. An agreement before the Florence summit would require a great deal of hard slog and hard pounding. I take nothing for granted, but we must exploit the momentum we are now achieving. Progress towards a settlement would show industry and consumers that Europe is at last sorting out this crisis, rather than playing politics. I believe that the British message is understood. We want a European answer for this European problem. The sooner this business can be settled, the better for everyone.

The author is the Foreign Secretary.

## Hits and missus

MORE pre-election manoeuvring by the Conservatives, with news that Norma Major is to be assigned her own press officer. At present, Mrs Major is dealt with by a civil servant inside No 10. In the months before and during the general election, however, she will be handled by a party apparatchik.

The likeliest candidate for the job is Eileen Wise, a former press officer for Walt Disney. Currently working as head of news at Conservative Central Office, she is already lining up lunches with senior editors and is widely expected to have her appointment made official later this month. Her assignment to the job should be seen as a pointer to a higher profile for Mrs Major, who is considered one of her husband's greatest election assets.

Vanessa Ford, now head of the Conservative Party chairman's office, was on Norma detail during the 1992 election. "It's not the most onerous task," she says, "and was just one of a thousand other things to do during an election."

Another voice at Central Office, however, believes the time has come for Mrs Major to assume proper First Lady status and a full-

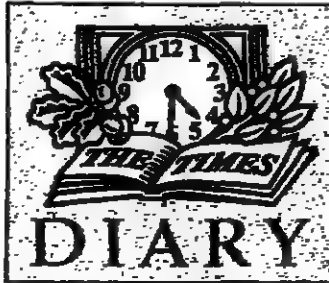
time press officer, saying "Norma's agenda is separate from the Prime Minister." Hillary Clinton, after all, has a whole staffed wing of the White House to herself.

Denis Thatcher never bothered with a press officer. As Miss Ford explains, "there was never the same interest in what he was wearing."

● In a throwback to the Macmillan years of high Tory politics, John Major went strolling out of



Storming Norma



No 10 the other day into St James's Park accompanied by his chief whip, Alastair Goodlad. But far from enjoying a sandwich under the trees, the hero of the *classics society* was on his way to lunch at Goodlad's club. Brooks, the sort of *Fink-Nortel* behaviour that Margaret Thatcher would never have approved of.

## On you, babe

SOBER TIMES are approaching, if New York's latest trend crosses the Atlantic. Displaying yet more evidence for the decline of manners described above by Bernard Levin, men are now refusing to buy drinks for their dates in one last challenge to the notoriously demanding New York female. "You wanna drink?" they cry in mid-Manhattan. "Have some water."

Back in London, at the Savoy Hotel's American Bar, head barman Peter Dorelli declares himself downright "uncomfortable" at the thought of men refusing to buy women their spritzers and White Ladies.

The note at DeBrett's, publisher of the authoritative *Etiquette and Modern Manners*, are quite uncompromising, advising men that they should "definitely pay on the first date. It would be rude not to."

The agency aunt Mary Killen is on to this one. "It's a bit of an old trick," she says. "But frankly, if you're with that kind of man, it's your fault anyway."

## An ex-parrot

DEATH has robbed the nation's letters pages of its most distinguished avian correspondent: Archdeacon William Paley. Paley, as *The Tablet* newspaper reveals, was in fact a parrot, the property of the Rev David Nicholls, vicar of Littlemore, Oxford. Nicholls would use the name of his blue-and-yellow Venezuelan macaw as, shall we say, a *nom de plumage* when firing off letters on Caribbean and church affairs.

Archdeacon Paley was the official correspondent for another national newspaper during the Haitian elections of 1987, and even

once made it into the Oxford diocesan directory. Stern efforts by the Italian barman at Exeter College to teach the parrot to swear came to nothing. He counted the Bishop of Oxford among his many friends.

Sadly, after 28 years of his favourite boiled potatoes and Brazil nuts, Paley suddenly became ill and died in the night. He was interred in the back garden.

● Yesterday's Guardian contained an earnest and conspicuous attack by star columnist Hugo Young on Douglas Hurd and John Redwood for conferring re-



"Her Majesty wants to help with the Duchess's book"

spectability on cigarettes by attending the Philip Morris Institute conference on Europe in London. Funny, then, to see that the panel of the Philip Morris Institute essay prize includes one Alan Rusbridger, the Editor of *The Guardian*.

## Tough deal

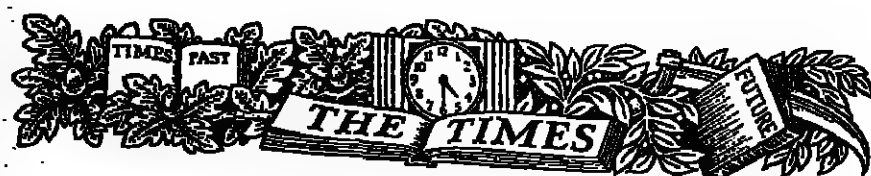
ONE WRITER who will not be offering his services to the Duchess of York for her £338,000 book deal with Simon & Schuster, is the author and biographer Michael De-la-Noy.

In April, De-la-Noy, whose 1994 biography of the Queen Mother became a bestseller, wrote to the Duchess asking to co-operate with her on a biography. Back came the high-minded reply: "Her Royal Highness has stated on numerous occasions that she will never write her memoirs, or indeed collaborate with anyone attempting to do so." Now, of course, the Duchess no longer operates under the royal title.

"Obviously in her case money speaks much louder than good intentions," says De-la-Noy, adding: "Frankly, whoever does work with the Duchess on this one is in for a hell of a job."

P.H.S





## THE KINDEST CUT

Lower interest rates are just what the economy needs

Kenneth Clarke's decision to cut base rates may have surprised many in the City. But it makes eminent economic sense. Any interest rate cut within a year of a general election is bound to be described as political; it is no less justified for that. The Chancellor has boosted his reputation for independence of mind, and boosted the chances of a lasting recovery in the process.

Despite the endemic caution of the Bank of England and many City analysts, there were strong arguments for lower rates. Manufacturing output has been stagnant for months, while stocks are being built up. A combination of weakness in European economies and a strong pound is a threat to exports. Consumer demand may be rising, but there is no sign of any inflationary pressures. The prices that producers pay for their raw materials are falling, as are pay settlements. The headline rate of inflation is down to 2.4 per cent, 1½ points lower than last September. Meanwhile, Britain has the second highest interest rates in the Group of Seven industrialised countries; a level not justified by the country's inflationary performance.

When interest rates were raised a year and a half ago, the argument was that the pound was weak, and there was a danger that higher import prices would feed through to inflation. Now sterling is stronger than it has been for two and a half years, so there is every reason to make a corresponding cut.

Cassandras at the Bank of England talk ominously of the risks of repeating the mistakes of 1986-87, when an unsustainable boom led to the bust of the early 1990s. But that boom was a far cry from today: house prices were galloping and consumer confidence was unstoppable. The Government let interest rates and sterling fall and cut deeply into taxes. Manufacturing output was

expanding at a rate of about 4 per cent. Now, output is falling. And the Chancellor will consider himself very lucky if the economy meets his growth forecast of 3 per cent this year. Both the OECD and City economists believe 2 per cent to be more likely.

Ministers like to boast that the inflationary cycle has been turned into a virtuous circle. As pay settlements and expectations have fallen, the pressures on costs have lessened, and prices have tended to rise only slowly. If this continues, the economy ought to be able to grow at a faster rate without stoking up inflation. Yesterday five of the Chancellor's six wise people said that growth of 3 per cent or more should be sustainable over the next three to five years without any rise in underlying inflation. If so, then the British economy will truly have been transformed.

But that transformation cannot be tested unless the Chancellor relaxes monetary policy to permit such a rate of growth. This is, tentatively, what he seems to be doing. It would be a terrible waste if the pain of the restructuring in the past five years were not allowed now to bear fruit. Mr Clarke is sensible, therefore, to give the economy a chance to grow in a sustainable way; he can always reverse the policy if inflation does pick up.

This cut in interest rates is the most efficient way of targeting the sectors that most need help. It will have more effect on manufacturing and investment than on consumer spending. For this reason, a rate cut is far more desirable than tax cuts and should, in any other year, make tax cuts less likely. This is, however, the run-up to a general election. If cuts in taxes do materialise, despite the monetary easing and the ballooning deficit, they will most certainly deserve to be dubbed political.

## WHEN IN ROME

Rifkind has begun to prise open a closed door

The bargain struck by Malcolm Rifkind in Rome is straightforward as far as it goes — which is not very far. Italy, as current holder of the European Union presidency, is bent on a smooth-running European summit in Florence on June 21. Britain has an equally strong interest in securing before then a deal which, by mapping the route to ending the EU's global ban on British beef exports, will justify to the British public the Government's strategy of concentrating minds by putting a spanner in the EU works.

In Rome, Mr Rifkind won Italy's promise to work flat out for a "framework agreement", in time for it to be put to foreign ministers four days before the summit opens. As a reciprocal gesture, Britain will make the EU association agreement with Slovenia — a cherished achievement of Italian diplomacy — the first exception to its strategy of blocking decisions in EU councils. Mr Rifkind hopes that this is a "turning point", but for two reasons, agreement before Florence is far from guaranteed.

The first is that other governments will find it extremely difficult to explain to their own publics why, if the global ban was justified in March, it is safe to lift it so soon. Had it been based exclusively on scientific data, science would provide the key to unlocking this dilemma. But it was not. Instead, as the EU Agriculture Commissioner Franz Fischler virtually admitted, it was primarily a political act, an attempt to forestall a total collapse of consumer confidence in beef.

When governments panic, consumers are hardly likely to be reassured. The predictable result is that the ban has missed its target and has deepened public phobias — above all in Germany, where it is most zealously defended. The measure has put hundreds of thousands out of work and is regretted by more EU governments than care to admit it publicly. But they cannot now be seen to be playing political conjuring tricks

with an issue that they have declared vital to public health. Hence the infelicitously phrased dismissal of Britain's 121-page plan by the Commission yesterday as "a skeleton" which required the EU to "put flesh on it".

Mr Rifkind's charm offensive in Europe's capitals has, as he shows on the page opposite, been carefully aimed at meeting this problem of public perceptions. With more tact than logic, he insists in the same breath that the ban is unjustified, but that Britain will seek only a step-by-step easing, beginning with cattle from BSE-free herds exclusively fed on grass, and will submit each fresh decision to veterinary and scientific certification by the Commission that Britain's measures are adequate.

That leaves the second problem. Britain's explicitly political challenge to the EU has raised hackles not to be smoothed by such science-based pragmatism. Britain, which has blocked 56 measures to date, insists that it will maintain its stand until a framework is agreed. Until now, the Commission has retorted that Britain must give way before, not after, such an agreement is negotiated.

Jacques Santer has to contend with German determination to demonstrate that Britain's strategy is doomed to humiliating failure. In this Germany is not alone. Even this week's minor concession on derivatives drew such complaints about surrendering to British blackmail that Mr Santer felt obliged to threaten to take this country to the European Court for breaching Article 5 of the Treaty of Rome, which requires states to "facilitate... the Community's tasks".

This is partly for show. Such a procedure would take months — as would a British legal challenge to Germany's flat refusal to comply with any easing of the ban. Mr Rifkind's deal in Rome has persuaded Mr Santer to speed up the framework negotiations without setting preconditions. It is an important gain; but it only opens the door a crack.

## MINOR ROYALTIES

Out of the red, into the black

No man but a blockhead may ever have written except for money but no duchess now writes for anything under a million dollars up front. The Duchess of York has just sold the rights to her life story for \$1.3 just sold the rights to her life story for \$1.3 million. After a spate of books which have eroded respect for the royals, such as *Princess in Love*, "the story so beautiful it had to be told", there is trepidation from had to be told; there is trepidation from traditionalists about a work which could be marketed as *Duchess in First Class*: "the story so bankable it had to get sold".

The Duchess's divorce agreement stipulates no unseemly revelations, but some Royalists fear that the Duchess's desire to see a profit may tempt her into causing a stir. They should calm themselves. The Duchess is merely following in a long line of writers, well bred but in the red, who have written about Grub Street in order to get themselves out of Grub Street.

Sir Walter Scott, the Laird of Abbotsford, wrote to rescue himself from his creditors after unfortunate investments. Another great Tory romancer, Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare, has woven stories on his path from near-bankruptcy to billions. And he has written a series of bestselling novels. Other great authors, apart from Lord Archer, have kept afloat by keeping their ribs wet and scratching away. Anthony Trollope's mother, Frances, kept the family together after the death of the feckless

father by rising before dawn to write her comic tour de force, *Domestic Manners of the Americans*.

The Duchess of York may not normally stir from her sun-lounger until later in the day to find the *not just* for the latest adventures of Budgie the helicopter, but she will prove herself as energetic as any scribbler if she succeeds in delivering her memoirs by the end of this year.

Royal writers are nothing new. Henry VIII and Queen Victoria both had work published. Henry put his name to a religious polemic and Victoria, as a correspondent notes opposite, penned personal observations which prompted a few flattering words from her Prime Minister. Disraeli — himself a debt-ridden writer in his youth.

The Duchess will, we hope, be discreet. Her story has much to commend it and should appeal to starry-eyed readers state-side. However, New York publishers calculating how to pay for their next round of Martinis may worry that if her first volume is too bereft of saleable secrets it may not fly off the shelves. In such circumstances they may lean on the Duchess to tell more. To avoid any damage to the Royal Family, the first book needs to be such a success that there is no pressure to bring out a sequel. In the interests of the monarchy, then, every copy must go: royalists should buy for Britain.

## Sinn Fein vote in perspective

From Mr Alistair B. Cooke

Sir, Mr Chris Ryder (letter, June 4) represents Ulster as being well along the road to an Anglo-Irish condominium with each state having its "client communities", as he patronisingly puts it.

A stable future for Ulster can be built on only one foundation: that provided by our country's existing constitution, which commands the overwhelming loyalty of one "client community" and significant support in the other.

It would be ludicrous to increase the prospects of instability quite deliberately by causing deep anxiety amongst such people — the majority of our fellow countrymen in Ulster. That, however, would be the certain result of the course Mr Ryder recommends. He wants everything to be regarded as conditional, provisional and open for discussion. What Ulster really needs is the certainty that comes from knowing that its constitution is non-negotiable.

As for Sinn Fein, its fortunes rise and fall, like those of all political organisations, violent or pacific. Last week it got 15.4 per cent of the vote. At the 1995 general election it got 23.5 per cent. It is Unionism which wins each and every election in Ulster.

Yours faithfully,  
ALISTAIR B. COOKE  
(Chairman, Trustees of the Friends of the Union),  
PO Box 1261, London SW3 4JF.  
June 4.

From Mr S. Brooks

Sir, In the interests of perspective, let me point out that 85 per cent of those voting recently in Northern Ireland did not wish to vote for a Sinn Fein candidate.

Yours sincerely,  
SAM BROOKES,  
2 Manor Park,  
Corbridge, Northumberland.  
June 4.

From Mr Andrew Walker

Sir, It is a pity we have been conned into using the word ceasefire to describe the IRA's tactics. A ceasefire exists when opposing armies agree to stop fighting each other.

The IRA simply refrained — temporarily — from murdering civilians indiscriminately. This is not the same thing, and in any other context the idea of a mass murderer proclaiming a "ceasefire" would be regarded as ludicrous and contemptible.

Yours sincerely,  
ANDREW WALKER,  
9 Charnwell Court,  
Brighton, East Sussex.  
June 4.

## Royal protesters

From Mr D. J. Lewis

Sir, As a Welsh-speaking Welshman, born and bred in Wales, I write to express my deep sense of shame at the student demonstrations against the monarchy on the Queen's recent visit to the University of Wales at Aberystwyth (report, June 1).

What, perhaps, is no less disturbing are the remarks attributed to the Principal of the university, who is quoted as saying that the students had a "democratic right to protest peacefully" and who then appears to blame the police for the fact that Her Majesty was unable to complete her visit. Six students arrested for public order offences and a seventh held for criminal damage do not accord with one's notion of peaceful protest, any more than do the Principal's own comment that "the Palace advisers and police knew that there might be trouble".

Yours faithfully,  
D. J. R. LEWIS,  
Runabouts, 39 West Street,  
Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire.

From Lieutenant-Colonel D. J. Harding

Sir, It is sad to note that only the bad side of events in Aberystwyth last Friday gained any media attention. As the project officer for the new TA Centre in the town and involved in the detailed arrangements for its opening by HM The Queen, I felt, like many others, enormously privileged to be graced by her visit. Everyone in her presence was touched by the warmth and joy her smile and laugh brought to us. I remain, Sir, your obedient servant.

DOUGLAS HARDING,  
Territorial Auxiliary and Volunteer Reserve Association for Wales,  
Earl Road, Mold, Clwyd.  
June 4.

## Sauce for golden goose

From Mr John Smart

Sir, I trust that at the very least Camelot and the other privately owned monopolies created by the Government are barred from the giving of political donations.

Yours sincerely,  
JOHN SMART,  
22 Eatonville Road, SW17.  
June 5.

Business letters, page 29

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

### Are top earners worth the money?

From Professor D. J. Dunstan

Sir, It is not academics who are intellectual anti-trade snobs, but politicians John Redwood, "Presiding over utility monopolies", June 1) and journalists ("The fat cat is the pensioner's friend", William Rees-Mogg, June 3).

As a university physicist I have great respect for my colleagues, scientists and engineers at the Post Office research laboratories in the 1970s and in other industrial establishments around the world, who were responsible for the dramatic changes in telecommunications. They invented and developed optical fibre, far cheaper and of higher capacity than copper wire, and computers which allow us to have digital exchanges, fax machines and much more.

Yet John Redwood ignores their contribution, crediting himself and Peter Lilley with responsibility for lower prices and expanded services. He contrasts telecommunications with water, but the real reason water prices haven't fallen in a similar way since privatisation is nothing to do with competition. It is because the technology of sending water down pipes has scarcely evolved (and is unlikely to).

William Rees-Mogg tries to persuade us of the social value of people managing assets of £80 billion and paid seven figures, without once mentioning wealth creation. He is not persuasive, since he doesn't explain whether they created their return of more than 20 per cent, or simply took it off other fund managers at the expense of other people's pensions, in what is known as a zero-sum game.

Niels Bohr is famous for elucidating the structure of the atom in the early part of this century; he ought to be as famous for noting that fund managers can only make money off other fund managers and that half of them will do worse than rolling dice.

I have a strong suspicion that if Nick Leeson, in Singapore, had been luckier — not cleverer, but luckier — he might have featured in a similar article as well with whatever bonuses Baring Brothers were paying him. Libby Purves, on the other hand, deserves our thanks for her appreciation ("Grounded in the Arctic", June 4) of the wonders of "real engineering and technology" in aviation which are so often unappreciated by modern travellers and concealed by the airlines.

Yours sincerely,  
D. J. DUNSTAN,  
Queen Mary and Westfield College,  
Department of Physics,  
Mile End Road, E1.  
June 5.

### Child intensive care

From Dr R. I. Ross Russell

Sir, Stephen Dorrell's statement on paediatric intensive care (report, May 30) is clearly a welcome and important step forward in providing adequate facilities for critically ill children in this country.

He makes much of the high cost of such provision, £250,000 per year for each bed, suggesting that this figure is the equivalent of 20 heart valve replacement operations (£12,500 each). However, Mr Dorrell fails to make clear the workload of that single bed.

In our unit we admit 300 children a year into four intensive care beds. Each bed therefore sees 75 children and, using the Government's own figures, each admission will therefore

cost less than £3,500. Ninety per cent of children admitted to the unit survive and less than 2 per cent of all survivors have any serious long-term effects from their illness.

Clearly the ideal solution would be for more money to be made available to fund these extra facilities but, in measuring value for money, the prospect of caring for 75 critically ill children with the positive outcomes we can expect these days measures very favourably against almost any other area of healthcare spending.

Yours sincerely,  
ROB ROSS RUSSELL,  
(Consultant in Paediatric Intensive Care),  
Paediatric Intensive Care Unit,  
Addenbrooke's NHS Trust,  
Hills Road, Cambridge.

### Roddick's politics

From Ms Anita Roddick

Sir, News of my political affiliation is much exaggerated (Diary, June 4) if it causes Labour to be "jubilant" and is "crushing" for Lib Dem. Indeed unidentified sources making unsubstantiated claims puts people like me off politics, so both parties should keep the champagne and henlock, on ice.

I'm motivated by ideas and actions, not affiliations. So while welcoming the fresh thinking of Paddy Ashdown and Tony Blair, I urge them to reflect further on meeting the pressing social and environmental challenges facing the people of Britain, Europe and the world, as we approach a new millennium.

As for my vote, well that's between me and the ballot box. But I'll use it effectively in my community to advance the cause of social and environmental change and urge others to do likewise.

Yours sincerely,  
ANITA RODDICK,  
(Founder and Chief Executive),  
The Body Shop International,  
Watersmead,  
Littlehampton, West Sussex.

### Bridging the Severn

From Mr Douglas Keay

Sir, While researching a biography of the Queen in the early Nineties, I was told a remarkable tale by the late Duchess of Beaufort regarding the Severn Bridge.

Queen Mary, wife of George V, who "evacuated" to Badminton, the Beaufort ancestral seat, during the Second World War, spent rainy days in the music room sorting through Beaufort family papers and putting the more interesting items in separate envelopes which she sealed and signed Mary R on the outside.

Many years later, when the first Severn Bridge was being built, someone in the Beaufort family remem-

### BBC TV's 'lack of cultural ambition'

From Mr Robert Layton

Sir, Richard Morrison ("What's BBC TV got against culture?" June 1) deserves thanks for articulating disquiet at the BBC's abdication of the high ground in music. The low profile enjoyed by opera and ballet is symptomatic of a general decline in the level of cultural ambition that distinguishes present-day BBC television.

Young musicians may be encouraged to compete to be "Young Musician of the Year", but where are the television openings for them afterwards? Where are the recitals that enriched past programming? I am old enough to recall a relay of Furtwängler conducting the *Eroica* with the Berlin Philharmonic on BBC television in the late 1940s. When, apart from the Proms, did we last have a relay of a great orchestra from the Festival Hall, the Barbican or Birmingham on our screens? When did we last have a recital series?

BBC management is busy counting heads when it should be worrying about what is in them.

Yours faithfully,  
ROBERT LAYTON  
(Senior Producer,  
BBC Music Division, 1959-90),  
112 Goldhurst Terrace, NW6,  
June 2.

From Mr Christopher Clift

Sir, In his penultimate paragraph, Mr Morrison hypothesises on the televising of every new production from Covent Garden and the National Theatre.

I would rather that television brought to the nation's attention the excellent work being done, much of it on budgets a fraction of those enjoyed by the Royal Opera, by companies such as Opera North, Scottish Opera, the Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester and Welsh National Opera.

Capital funding of the arts from sources such as the National Lottery would, I believe, become more acceptable to more people if they saw for themselves that not all of their money goes to the London "elitists".

Yours,  
C. R. CLIFT,  
449 Reddings Lane, Birmingham 11.  
June 1.

From Mrs D. M. Shearman

Sir, When the BBC does put on an opera or concert it always seems to be trying to educate us. Last night we had *Nabucco*, a wonderful musical experience, but in an interpretation that seemed determined to shake us from the traditional.

And why do we have so many close-ups of performers? Are we so stupid that we cannot pick out a trumpet for ourselves? It is like watching a cricket match with the camera solely on the wicket.

I get the impression that the BBC considers that if we, its audience, had any intelligence we would go to the opera or concerts ourselves.

Sincerely,  
DOROTHY SHEARMAN,  
The Hollies,  
Avenue Road, Cranleigh, Surrey.  
June 2.

From Mr Albert Bullock

Sir, My refuge is up there on satellite. The German and Italian stations offer all that we miss from British TV. I have on video, amongst many others, *Fierrabras* (Schubert) with Thomas Hampson, *The Barber* with Cecilia Bartoli and *La Sonnambula* with June Anderson.

I do not have to pay for any of these many, many treasures. I do have to pay for BBC offerings.

Yours faithfully,  
ALBERT BULLOCK,  
Rough Acre,  
Milbourn Drive,  
Moulton, Newmarket, Suffolk.  
June 1.

### Diva's revenge?

From Mr Gordon Smith

Sir, I was intrigued to come across an opera previously unknown to me, listed in your Vision supplement (June 1): *Donizetti* by Lucia di Lammermoor.

This is a welcome development: it is about time that characters in opera had the right of reply. I look forward to what Madame Butterfly has in store for *Puccini*, and still more to Britnillides, hopefully succinct, low-down on Wagner.

One wonders if there are many other deserving characters giving their own side of the story.

Yours etc,  
GORDON SMITH,  
The London School of Economics and Political Science,  
Houghton Street, WC2.  
June 1.

### Infamy, infamy

From Canon A. D. Cesar

Sir, I am becoming increasingly amused and increasingly irritated by the constant use, in newspapers of all kinds, of the pun in headlines.

"Julius seizure" in *The Times* Diary today is just about the last straw.

Yours sincerely,  
ANTHONY CESAR,  
2 Old Kiln,  
Yarbridge, Brading,  
Isle of Wight.  
June 1.

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## OBITUARIES

## ROBERT HURST

Robert Hurst, CBE, GM, first director of the experimental reactor project at Dounreay, died on May 16 aged 81. He was born on January 3, 1915.

BOB HURST belonged to the generation of clever young atomic scientists who laid the foundations for Britain's nuclear power programme after the Second World War. The chemistry of plutonium was among the new areas he explored while he was head of a sequence of research groups at Harwell in the late 1940s and 1950s.

But, despite his distinguished progress, culminating in his appointment to the directorship of Dounreay at the early age of 43, this was only the second phase of a career which had earlier established him as a war hero. Interrupting his PhD studies at Cambridge in 1940, Hurst volunteered to work as a civilian scientist with bomb disposal and mine detection teams during the war. For the next five years he worked as a "hands-on" experimental officer through the Blitz and the terrifying V1 and V2 raids.

His most famous experiment came in June 1944 when Hurst was a leading member of the team led by Major (now Professor) John Hudson, Royal Engineers, which defused the first intact flying bomb found in Britain. The so-called "Doodlebug" contained a new kind of fuse which Hurst and the others were instructed to recover intact "without fail".

The nerve-testing operation on a Sussex farm lasted a week. Hurst and Hudson working in shifts during daylight hours, fighting off waves of dizziness and nausea brought on by toxic fumes from the explosive. Continuing air raids complicated their task, while they knew that the slightest wrong move could have set off the clockwork mechanism of the time fuse inside the bomb. But they made it, and the citation for Hurst's George Medal, which was published in the *London Gazette* three months later, praised their "sustained courage and determination".

Hurst was put into uniform himself at the end of the war and flown to Berlin to help to detect and make safe unexploded bombs dropped by the Allies on the city. This was not, however, his first involvement with Hitler's Germany. As an undergrad-



Robert Hurst with Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother at the opening of Dounreay nuclear power station in 1958

ate in New Zealand in the 1930s, Hurst belonged to a group of students who had helped Jews to escape from the Nazis. Among those they aided was the Austrian-born philosopher Sir Karl Popper, whom Hurst got to know in New Zealand and later in Britain. Among his more treasured possessions was a signed first edition of Popper's book *The Open Society and its Enemies*.

The son of a New Zealand businessman, Robert Hurst was born in Nelson on South Island. He was soon recognised as an outstanding student at school in Nelson and at Canterbury College, where he took an MSc in physical chemistry. From there he won a fellowship at Emmanuel College, Cambridge, and sailed for England in

1939, working his passage as a radio operator on board ship.

The war broke out during the voyage and the ship was held up in the Caribbean while it was hastily camouflaged in battleship grey. Once in Britain, Hurst completed the first year of his doctorate before volunteering for the work of bomb disposal.

At the end of the war, he returned to Cambridge to finish his thesis, then joined the newly opened Atomic Energy Research Establishment at Harwell in 1948.

At first he was engaged in studying the chemistry of materials, notably plutonium. But then he moved on to head a project team investigating the potential of various kinds of nuclear reactor. After a brief spell, 1957-58, as

chief chemist at the Atomic Energy Authority's Industrial Research and Development branch at Risley, Cheshire, Hurst was offered in 1958 the directorship of the new experimental "fast breeder" reactor complex at Dounreay in Caithness. It was a highly prized appointment for one so comparatively young at a time when the fast breeder reactors — which produced more fuel than they burnt — were thought to hold the future for Britain's energy needs.

Five years later, however, Bob Hurst was coaxed by a fellow émigré to leave the nuclear industry for something entirely different. He became director of research at the British Ship Research Association, which had been founded to help Britain to keep pace with increasing competition in shipbuilding.

Computer-aided design was among the technical innovations introduced under Hurst, who brought to the job his considerable experience of managing research and applying its results.

Retiring in 1976, he applied similar qualities to his garden in Poole, Dorset, which he transformed from a wilderness, while turning himself into an expert on bonsai trees. He also researched the genealogy of his family, although he failed to trace back the Hursts beyond the Australian Gold Rush in the last century.

An early heart attack prevented him from becoming an amateur sailor. But he worked for the local sailing club on land and did voluntary work for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution. As a student he had been an accomplished cross-country runner and hockey player.

A quiet, well-balanced person, one of his strengths was a prodigious memory which made him a somewhat daunting conversationalist. Recalling almost everything he had heard and read, he seemed to know more about any subject than even those who claimed to be experts.

But he was also a very practical entrepreneur who, while at Harwell, kept his diary on a blackboard, rubbing out and chalking in changes as required. Robert Hurst, who died after a third heart attack, is survived by his wife Rachael, whose parents had kept the Sussex hotel in which he had stayed for part of the war, and by three sons.

## STEPHEN JONES

Stephen Jones, curator and art historian, died from a brain tumour on June 1 aged 41. He was born on September 24, 1954.

STEPHEN JONES was a modern aesthete who put his encyclopaedic knowledge of the decorative arts to the service of several exciting architectural projects in London. These included the restoration of the wonderfully Baroque Leighton House in Holland Park, and of Spencer House in St James's Place.

Jones carried his refined sense of beauty, like Harold Acton, down to the smallest detail of his private life. He dressed with almost Edwardian formality, favouring watch chains and highly starched double-cuffed shirts. He was a great admirer of Max Beerbohm, and his own sense of humour could be equally waspish.

Stephen Richard Jones was born in London, the son of two schoolteachers. His mother taught drama, and he inherited her formidable social skills. He was educated at St Dunstan's College, and then at Magdalene College, Cambridge, where he read English and History of Art. He immersed himself in the study of Victorian architecture and art (not then the fashionable subject it is today), and in particular the Aesthetic period. Jones's artistic inclinations singled him out from the mass of his contemporaries at Magdalene, though he did find some like-minded souls elsewhere in the university. His ultimate ambition at this point was to become the curator of a national museum.

He left university for stints at the Victoria and Albert, where he worked in the education department; on *Apollo*, as Denis Simon's assistant; and at Gainsborough's House in Sudbury, where he was curator.



He came to London in 1981 to take over the restoration of Leighton House on Holland Park Road. Leighton had travelled widely abroad during the 19th century, and had decorated his house with stunning examples of Middle Eastern craftsmanship: mosaics, carvings, embroideries and richly decorated textiles. These gave the house, in parts, the impression of a Turkish palace. But by the time Jones arrived, it had become a distinctly moth-eaten palace. The whole fabric of the house was falling into dusty disrepair.

Jones set about restoring the building in meticulous detail. He researched the original decorations, found authentic period furnishings and, most importantly, raised the money for the project. He persuaded the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea to spend a large sum on the external repairs to the house, and staged an "aesthetic ball". Gradually, from the Cinderella it had been, the house emerged as the jewel in the borough's crown.

Although Jones went on to other projects, he never loosened his links with Leighton House. For the past five years, he had played a crucial role in organising the centenary celebrations of the artist's death,

which were staged earlier this year at the Royal Academy. Jones moved to the National Art Collections Fund in 1989, and spent two years editing its publications. He turned the NACF's *Art Quarterly* into a particularly lively read.

Then in 1991 he became Director of Spencer House. One of the grandest mansions in London, with a western facade overlooking Green Park, this had been the London home for the Spencer family from the 18th century until 1926. It had spent the subsequent sixty years used, more mundanely, as office accommodation for a legion of clerks and secretaries. In 1985 the J. Rothschild group of companies took the lease, and paid for its restoration.

This was largely completed when Jones joined Spencer House, the state rooms restored to their former glittering splendour. It was his task, in particular, to launch the banqueting facilities — unenviably, in the teeth of a recession. Against the odds, Jones made a success of this.

Jones did a good deal of behind the scenes work for the Victorian Society, the Royal Oak Foundation, which raises funds for the National Trust, and the Walpole Committee. He was at the height of his powers, and friends were as nonplussed as he was when he complained of feeling unwell. Sadly, a brain tumour was diagnosed, and Jones died several weeks afterwards.

Jones once described his own dream home as a Georgian rectory, with stables, in Gloucestershire. He actually lived in an early Victorian house in Camberwell, decorated with the occasional small masterpiece which his sharp eye had spotted at the back of an antique shop. Magazine editors approached him to photograph it, but he always refused. He lived there with his partner David Oosterman, who survives him.

## SIR JACK LAYDEN

Sir Jack Layden, former leader of the Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council, died on May 28 aged 70. He was born on January 16, 1926.

A STRAIGHT-speaking miner from Yorkshire, Sir Jack Layden was one of the last great working-class municipal leaders of the postwar era. He represented the long tradition of the centre-right strand of socialism in the Labour dominated councils of northern England. In the course of a 40-year career, which spanned both trade union and constituency politics, he was proud to have met every British Prime Minister since Churchill.

As leader of the Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council, Layden pioneered the right of tenants to buy their council houses long before the Tories adopted the idea. He was always saddened that the Labour Party had languished in Opposition for so many years. It was for this reason, per-

haps, that in later years this archly grumpy Yorkshireman became an enthusiastic advocate of Tony Blair and new Labour.

John Layden was born in Malby, South Yorkshire, and always remained rooted in its working-class community. In 1940, at the age of just 14, he was employed as a faceworker in the Malby colliery. It was a tough training, of which he took a proud but never romantic view. Although he fought bitterly against pit closures, he recognised at the same time the value of the education which his work in the pits had denied him. In the 1950s he attended Sheffield University as a day-release student to catch up on the learning he had missed and he encouraged his own children to go on to tertiary education.

Politically, alien from an early age, Layden became a member of the Labour Party in 1944. But it was only in 1953 that he began to take a more active involvement in politics

when he was elected a member of the urban district council of Malby. He acted as its chairman from 1959 to 1960, and again from 1970 to 1971. Layden was also the local leader of the National Union of Mineworkers and sat on its Yorkshire executive.

In 1974 he was elected as the leader of the newly created Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council. Ten years later, in 1984, he beat off a strong left-wing challenge to become the new chairman of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities. His own slightly parochial background did not prevent him from becoming an effective leader of a united local authority campaign.

Reacting strongly against domination by a centralised Whitehall command, he believed instead that the relationship between central and local government should be one of creative partnership. He took his arguments for local democracy direct to Downing Street, managing, it is said, to silence even Margaret Thatcher with a combination of native directness and miner's wit.

Layden was made a JP of Rotherham Borough in 1965. He was also chairman of the South Yorkshire Police Authority and supported its Chief Constable strongly at the time of the 1989 Hillsborough disaster. He was knighted in 1988 and in that same year was also made a Freeman of the City of London.

But it was Rotherham which remained Layden's first love. Throughout his life he was an ardent supporter of his local second division football club, Rotherham United.

Jack Layden died while on a family holiday in Blackpool, just three weeks after retirement. He is survived by his wife Brenda, whom he married in 1949, and by their two sons.

## PILAR LORENGAR

Pilar Lorenza García, Spanish soprano, died in Berlin on June 2 aged 68. She was born in Zaragoza on January 16, 1928.

YEARS before she adopted the portmanteau-name "Lorengar", composed from the two surnames with which she was born, Pilar Lorenza García and her mother visited a high-class dressmaker in their native Zaragoza. The lady, struck by the voice of the 13-year-old who warbled happily as she was being measured, took the mother to one side and impressed upon her firmly the rareness of the girl's talent.

The dressmaker had her way, and within months Pilar was studying in Madrid with Angeles Otín. The tutelage, next, of Carl Ebert and Martha Klus in Berlin would put this resourceful girl from Aragón on the path to international celebrity.

The Germanic flavour of the name Lorengar was quite appropriate, even in a Spanish soprano, as Pilar was a "house artist" of Deutsche Oper in Berlin from 1959 — when, in an inspired gamble by the company, she was first signed up — until her retirement 32 years later. She married a Berliner and, throughout her life, professed a passion for the city and its people. "Without Berlin I could not sing," she once said.

Lorengar made her name first, however, in a most un-Germanic genre — that of zarzuela, the Spanish light opera which demands from its singers voices that soar and swoop, not always with subtlety. She captured national fame in 1951, at Madrid's Teatro Albeniz, by her performance in Jacinto Guerrero's *El canastillo de frailes* (The Little Basket of Strawberries). Critics heaped encomiums on her "clear diction" and on "the freshness of her enchanting



timbre", characteristics which never ceased to mark her art.

Lorengar's opera debut was to come four years later, as Cherubino in *The Marriage of Figaro*, in Aix-en-Provence. Her looks did not please *Opera* magazine, which called her "the most unboylike page imaginable, discarding the usual periwig in favour of a feminine hairstyle which even the text of *Non più andrai* could hardly justify". But her vocal perfection quickly won her admirers, few of whom ever realised that her voice was the product of the most fanatical practice.

Shortly after Aix, she went to Glyndebourne in 1957, where she was a winsome Pamina in *The Magic Flute*. Her vivacity suited Mozart, and Lorengar made her New York debut at the Metropolitan Opera in 1966 as Elvira in *Don Giovanni*. So bewitched was the New York company with her that she returned to sing for the next 12 seasons.

But there was more to Lorengar than Mozart: with years, her voice acquired the texture for Verdi, Wagner and Janáček. In the title role of whose *Jenufa* she excelled in Berlin in 1976. In its review of the latter, *Opera* was kinder to her than it had been when she had once played Cherubino, praising the "perfection of her tonal beauty and resonance in the upper register".

In 1991 Lorengar was awarded Spain's most coveted prize, the Principe de Asturias de las Artes, along with Teresa Berganza, Victoria de los Angeles, Montserrat Caballé, Alfredo Kraus, José Carreras and Plácido Domingo. Speaking to the Spanish press the day after Lorengar died, after a long illness, the latter described her graciously as "una mujer simpaticísima" — a most agreeable woman. No one who knew her would disagree.

She is survived by her husband.

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# THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

FRIDAY JUNE 7 1996



Michael Hopper, right, BT's former managing director who remains on the payroll but has no role, with Sir Iain Vallance, the chairman

## Clarke defies market consensus to cut rate

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

KENNETH Clarke's decision to cut rates by a quarter point to 5.75 per cent, completely against the market consensus and probably the views of the Bank of England, shows that the Chancellor is determined to grasp the opportunity of low inflation and allow the economy to grow as fast as he deems safe.

Mr Clarke has made it clear that he believes structural reforms to the economy undertaken since 1979 have raised the amount of growth and job creation that is possible without igniting inflation.

This instinct was given clear support in a report published yesterday by the Treasury's independent panel of economic forecasters, which Mr Clarke saw on Tuesday, the day before he met Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, to discuss rates.

Five out of six of the Chancellor's advisers now believe that real gross domestic product may be able to grow by 3 per cent or higher over the next three to five years without any rise in the underlying inflation rate.

It has long been assumed that Britain's sustainable growth rate is around 2.25 per

cent or lower and the idea that it has been raised because of supply side reforms to the economy is contentious. The panel of forecasters says that its conclusions are not an invitation to Chancellors present and future to regard 3 per cent or above as a growth target and emphasises that the current system of having an inflation target must remain the "binding constraint as the economy moves forward".

Although this report is independent and not the Treasury's view, it appears to chime in with Mr Clarke's

attitude that, given few signs of inflationary pressures, he would like interest rates to be as low as possible to achieve the maximum rate of sustainable growth.

Such an approach received some support in the City yesterday. Peter Warburton of Robert Fleming applauded Mr Clarke's decision to break out of the intellectual entrapment of Chancellors by their advisers and said: "It is right and proper that he should be far more concerned by the dismal performance of the industrial economy than by

the early and ephemeral indications of a retail pick-up."

The City has been deeply divided in its analysis of the economy because of a widening chasm between manufacturing, which is on the brink of recession, and the consumer sectors of the economy, which appear to be getting healthier. Many City economists condemned yesterday's move as politically motivated and putting the Government's inflation target at risk.

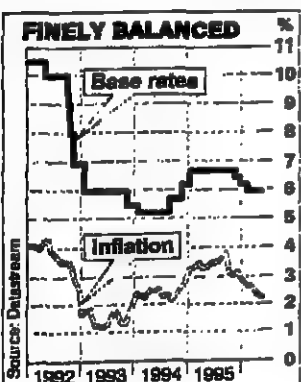
However, the financial markets took the news in their stride, suggesting that a quar-

ter-point move is too small to make much difference to economic projections.

Sterling, whose recent strength was one factor the Chancellor used to justify his decision, lost around one pence against the mark to close at DM2.3580. However, government bonds closed around half a point up, cheered by an unexpected rate cut by the Bank of France yesterday, and shares also closed marginally higher. The FT-SE 100 index closed 6.9 points up at 3,760.3.

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Pennington, page 27

## Fresh hope for housing market



THE move by some of the UK's biggest lenders to cut their rates following the 0.25 per cent cut in base rates could be the final trigger for genuine recovery in the housing market, write Caroline Merrill and Sarah Jones.

Halifax Building Society was the first to cut its rates, bringing its standard variable rate down from 7.25 per cent to 6.99 per cent.

However, savers now face a further decline in rates already at a 50-year low. Margaret Schwarz, Abbey National's chief economist, said: "Competition is as fierce in the savings market as in mortgages. If one provider cuts rates, others have to follow."

The mortgage rate cut means that the average £50,000 mortgage will be about £10 a month cheaper. This is the fifth cut inside a year. A year ago, rates stood at 8.35 per cent.

Mike Blackburn, Halifax chief executive, said: "This latest cut represents a further

shot in the arm for the housing market and consumer confidence in general."

New Halifax borrowers will feel the benefit straightaway. One million of the two million existing borrowers with variable rate mortgages will see their rates cut in August, while those on annual review will have their rates adjusted later in 1997.

Abbey National reduced its fixed variable rate by 0.25 per cent, and Bradford & Bingley cut its rate to 6.74 per cent.

## BT paying ex-chief £700,000 to do nothing

By JON ASHWORTH

BRITISH TELECOM is paying its former managing director nearly £700,000 for doing precisely nothing.

Michael Hopper, who left BT in December and is about to take up a £1 million-a-year post with Charterhouse, the investment bank, remains on BT's payroll until August 1997. In addition, he has until the end of the year to exercise options over BT shares worth nearly £1.5 million.

Details of the concessions to Mr Hopper emerge in BT's newly published annual report, which also discloses that Sir Peter Bonfield, the recently appointed chief executive, was paid £165,000 for three months' work. He took up his post in January. Sir Iain Vallance, chairman, earned £657,500 last year.

Mr Hopper, 52, left BT "by mutual agreement" as part of a boardroom shake-up, which saw Sir Iain split the roles of chairman and chief executive. BT agreed to pay Mr Hopper £686,600 in salary until his service contract expires on August 5, 1997. Other benefits, worth up to £57,700, include the use of a BT company car and driver, personal telephone facilities, medical cover and financial counselling.

The perks will end when Mr Hopper joins Charterhouse on July 1, but he will continue to draw his BT salary. He was paid £543,300 last year, including a bonus of £154,000.

BT shareholders and customers are likely to take a dim view of a package on this scale for someone who no longer works for the company. The news poses a potential embarrassment to BT non-executive directors, who include Lord Tebbit, the former Conservative Party chairman; Sir Ewen Ferguson, former ambassador to France; and Sir Colin Marshall, non-executive chairman of British Airways. BT made a pre-tax profit of £3.1 billion last year.

BT defended the payments yesterday, saying it had hired Mr Hopper on the basis that he would be paid until August 1997 whatever happened. His decision to leave had not broken the terms of his contract, so BT was obliged to continue paying him. A spokesman said: "I'm sure the shareholders will understand that Michael Hopper had done a tremendous job at a very difficult time for BT."

He added: "It happens that BT is extremely open and

honest in its report and accounts. We did expect calls about it."

Under the BT share-option scheme, Mr Hopper has until December 31 to exercise options over 400,000 shares at 400p per share, compared with a closing price yesterday of 367.5p. Executives usually lose the right to such options when they leave, although BT gives its employees an additional 12 months.

Mr Hopper joined BT in 1991 after a long career in financial services. More than 100,000 voluntary redundancies were announced at BT during his reign. In his earlier role, he led the merger negotiations which resulted in the creation of Lloyds Abbey Life.

He signed up as chief executive of Charterhouse last month on a basic salary of £700,000, after an extensive search by Norman Broadbent International, the headhunter. With bonuses, his annual package is expected to top £1 million.

## Domestic gas bills to fall by further £8

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

GAS BILLS for more than 18 million households are to fall by a further £8 next year as part of a proposed new package of price controls.

Olga, the industry watchdog, yesterday announced the one-off price cut on the average domestic bill as part of its review of British Gas's domestic supply business, which is set to take effect from April 1 next year.

The latest cut imposed by Clare Spottiswoode, the industry regulator, will come on top of a £30 price cut proposed last month as part of Olga's review of TransCo, the company's pipeline and transport business. In a few years the annual saving to consumers would climb to £60 a year, Ms Spottiswoode said.

The controls on domestic prices would knock £60 million a year from the supply division of British Gas.

British Gas said that yesterday's proposals represented a further squeeze on profits and shareholders but were not of the same magnitude as those imposed on TransCo.

Philip Rogerson, deputy chairman, said: "I don't know where the savings are going to come from. It is a tough requirement."

In spite of his comments, it is widely expected that the company will largely accept the call for domestic tariffs to be set at the rate of inflation minus 5 percentage points. At present, household prices are governed by RPI-X.

The City considered the review more lenient than feared after the regulator left alone the mechanism by which British Gas can pass on

to the consumer the high price it pays for its supplies.

At present the spot price for gas is around 12.5p a therm whereas British Gas is committed to paying double that under take-or-pay contracts, and under obligations to its own gas fields. But the regulator said such a curb would be seen as arbitrary and would impact on shareholders.

If she had imposed restrictions on the pass-through of costs customers would have been poised for benefits of up to £78 next year. But Ms Spottiswoode said competition would force British Gas to renegotiate its take-or-pay contracts and bring down prices further.

Already it has lost more than 30,000 customers in the South West where competition in domestic supply has begun and rivals are offering price cuts of up to 23 per cent.

The pricing review is likely to be the last from Olga as regulation gives way to competition in the privatised utilities. The curbs run until the millennium by which time full competition in domestic energy, which will start in 1998, is expected to confer sufficient price benefits.

The official response by British Gas to the TransCo plan will come next week in what both sides believe will be a prelude to an inquiry by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Ms Spottiswoode repeated yesterday her view that the offices of the gas and electricity regulators would merge after that date.

On the ropes, page 29

## Barings resembled 'Mad Hatter's tea party'

By ROBERT MILLER

ONE of the most senior executives in charge of Barings at the time of the £830 million crash will admit next week that the bank was too dazzled by the fraudulent profits and potentially huge bonuses generated by Nick Leeson to probe his trading activities any further.

Peter Norris, the former chief executive officer who last month was banned from working as a manager in the City for three years, will also tell the BBC's *Inside Story* how the final days before the merchant bank's crash were like "the Mad Hatter's tea party".

Mr Norris, who will be quizzed on his role by the Commons Treasury Select Committee next Monday, told the programme, due to be screened next Wednesday, that at a meeting on January 24 last year the Singapore position was discussed and a committee concluded that Barings was "doing rather well". Now he admits: "In retrospect one has to say that virtually everything about that discussion was absolutely mad and that we were living in a world through the looking glass where logic was apparent, but was actually completely perverted."

The former Barings director contin-

ued: "It seems completely bizarre that a group of rational, intelligent, experienced and confident people were dealing with a matter that was totally at variance with reality... Critical faculties were less enjoined than they might have been — to put it at its least — because there were profits."

Leeson, who was interviewed for the programme before he left his German prison cell for a 6½-year term in Singapore, variously described the Barings management as "bumbling fools" and "idiots". Mr Norris in turn described Leeson's ability to manipulate people. He said: "He's like a virus that gets

into the workings of something that works, and perverts it utterly. He's an agent of destruction."

Of the audit in the Singapore office in the summer of 1994, Leeson said he "expected everything to be found". But, he said: "They came in and they didn't take any records. So I can't be happier. They didn't test one record or one report. I mean that's not an audit."

The Norris admission that management controls were non-existent is likely to increase calls on Barings and ING, its Dutch owners, to pay compensation to bond and preference shareholders who lost £150 million in the crash.



Norris: admission

EXHILARATION  
CLASSIC FM 100-102



## Irish sugar group sees sweet rise in profits

FROM EILEEN McCABE  
IN DUBLIN

GREENCORE, the Irish sugar, milling and maling group, recorded a 16 per cent jump in pre-tax profits to Ir£25.5 million in the six months to March 31.

Turnover was up 9 per cent to Ir£230 million while operating profit also increased 9 per cent, to Ir£24 million. Earnings per share jumped 11 per cent to Ir£1.8p.

The company's sugar sector put in a strong performance with a sales increase of 17 per cent.

However, operating profits increased by only 11 per cent, to Ir£12.8 million, because of the lower margins earned by the sale of 16,000 tonnes of over-quota sugar.

Operating profits in the agri-business sector increased by 7 per cent, to Ir£6.3 million, on sales of Ir£86.2 million. The company does not expect the BSE controversy to have a significant impact on profits but if farm incomes are affected, "there could be some indirect and modest exposure".

In the food sector, exports by the Erin and Swisco consumer product companies were hit by the strength of the Irish pound against sterling but the domestic markets saw some improvement. Overall, operating profits in the sector were up 7 per cent, to Ir£4.9 million, on sales of Ir£75 million.



David Dilger, right, the chief executive of Greencore, with Kevin O'Sullivan, the financial director, at a supermarket in Dublin this week.

## Boots restates commitment to troubled Do It All chain

BY CLARE STEWART

SPECULATION over the future of Do It All, the troubled DIY retailer, continues to grow, as a difference of opinion yesterday emerged between its joint owners, W H Smith and Boots.

With the City expecting Smith's soon to announce plans to quit DIY retailing as part of its restructuring, Lord Blyth, Boots's chief executive,

yesterday reaffirmed its commitment to Do It All.

"We believe the best way of creating value in the business is to continue with our strategy," he said, while announcing Boots's results for 1995.

Boots's share of losses from Do It All last year were £10.1 million, an increase of £3.8 million on the previous year.

In the year to March 31, Boots saw group profits fall 6 per cent to £494 million before

tax and exceptional items. Group turnover last year rose by 5.8 per cent to £4.1 billion.

The lower pre-tax figure reflects increased investment in its healthcare business, losses from Do It All and A G Stanley, the home decorating chain, and the sale of Boots Pharmaceuticals, which contributed £86.4 million of operating profit in the previous year.

Boots is lifting the total dividend to 18.5p a share, an

increase of 8.8 per cent, which its says reflects group performance and its strong cash position. The final dividend is 12.8p a share. The shares rose 2p to 608p yesterday.

At the year end, Boots held cash of £526 million. The company has subsequently raised a further £62.5 million with the sale of Childrens World and received the outstanding £73 million from the sale of Boots Pharmaceuticals.

Analysts expect Boots to spend some of its cash on a share buyback. "If we cannot find appropriate investments then we will return cash to shareholders, but we will choose the time," said Lord Blyth.

Boots's Chemists saw sales rise by 5.6 per cent to £3.1 billion, while operating profits jumped 10 per cent to £385 million, helped by "a very good summer and excellent Christmas", said Lord Blyth.

Boots Healthcare lifted total sales 12.3 per cent to £207 million helped by the strong performance of brands such as Nurofen and Strepisil, though after heavy investment in new products the division showed losses of £8.2 million.

Boots Opticians increased profit to £10.9 million before exceptional and Halford's profits rose 7.8 per cent to £22.1 million, while losses at A G Stanley deepened to £12.2 million. Childrens World, sold to Storehouse in February, showed a £1.4 million loss. Boots Properties, the second-most profitable business after Boots the Chemists, lifted operating profits 3.1 per cent to £68.2m.

Pennington, page 27

## Retail sales trend disappoints

BY JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

HIGH STREET spending rose in May for the eighth month running, but continues to be below retailers' expectations and business for the time of year is regarded as only just above average, according to the latest distributive trades survey by the Confederation of British Industry.

All sectors surveyed, apart from footwear and leather, saw sales rise, compared with a year ago. However, six out of 12 retail sectors examined re-

ported a slowdown in annual retail sales growth since April.

Alastair Eperon, chairman of the CBI's survey panel, said: "The continued expansion in retail trade for May is welcome as it points to the emergence of a 'feel-better' mood among consumers, although the underlying three-monthly growth trend now seems to be levelling off."

The CBI noted that retailers were still confident that volume growth would pick up

further in June, and that, if these hopes were fulfilled, this would leave business above average for the time of year.

Geoffrey Dicks, of NatWest Markets, said sales were somewhat disappointing, but that expectations of sales remain at their highest post-recession levels and that the outlook is for increased investment and employment. Mr Dicks pointed to the survey's reading for reported and expected prices and noted that they remain at

about their highest levels for three years. "This does not sit well with the Chancellor's assertion that core inflation is heading down," he said.

The CBI said that retailers reported that stocks were more than adequate in relation to expected demand, although a run-down in stockpiles is expected in June. However, it also noted that hopes of running down stock levels had been unfulfilled since October last year.

### FOODIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.00	1.98
Austria S	17.45	16.15
Belgium F	51.84	47.34
Canada \$	2.21	2.01
Cypriot C	0.72	0.70
Denmark Kr	0.71	0.61
Finland Mk	7.34	7.19
France F	6.48	6.31
Germany Dm	2.58	2.31
Greece Dr	380	384
Hong Kong \$	10.61	11.01
Ireland P	1.03	0.98
Israel Sh	6.45	6.23
Italy Lit	2502	2247
Japan Yen	133.40	127.44
Netherlands Gld	0.58	0.54
Norway Kr	2.901	2.571
New Zealand \$	2.46	2.33
Portugal Esc	10.88	9.88
Spain Ptas	205.50	207.00
Sweden Kr	7.32	6.82
Switzerland F	2.07	1.99
Turkey Lira	194.14	114.14
USA \$	1.844	1.814

Notes for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates are at close of trading yesterday.

### BUSINESS ROUNDUP

## Sweet options for Energy flotation

SWEETENERS for shares in British Energy, the UK's eight most modern nuclear reactors, will include a 10p per share discount for private investors buying at share shops. They can opt for the discount on the first 1,200 shares allocated, which are held until the second instalment payment date, or they can choose a one-for-15 bonus on the first 1,800 shares, allocated and held until July 31, 1999.

The discounts are in addition to an across-the-board discount for UK individual investors to the institutional offer. The maximum number of shares to qualify for a 10p discount is 1,200 — making a top saving of £120 — and the total number of bonus shares achievable is 120. The flotation date is set for mid July.

Tempus, page 28

## Mr Minit in Facia deal

THE first part of the failed Facia Group was sold yesterday, when Mr Minit, the shoe repair and luggage chain, bought 39 stores out of Salisbury's Grant Thornton. Salisbury's receivers said the price was "substantial" and is continuing to market the remaining 130 outlets. Mr Minit, which is part of the massive Minit International, is not taking the Salisbury's name and will operate the shops under its Gullivers leather goods brand.

## Bae to shed 300 jobs

BRITISH AEROSPACE has confirmed that 300 jobs are to go at its Prestwick site in Ayrshire. The jobs will be lost in the company's aerostuctures division, which makes parts for a variety of aircraft. The effect will be to reduce the number of employees from just under 1,000 to about 700. It is the second blow to the company's workforce this year. In April it was announced that 250 jobs were to be shed from Jetstream Aircraft, which shares the Prestwick site.

## Telecoms rules to go

THE Department of Trade and Industry is to end current restrictions on licensing international telecommunications carriers in the UK, ending the duopoly of British Telecom and Mercury. It will invite applications for further licences to provide international services. On July 1, Britain will also lift equivalency rules that limit international resale services to certain routes. Telecoms companies will then be able to provide services over leased capacity on any route.

## TT seeks Johnston stake

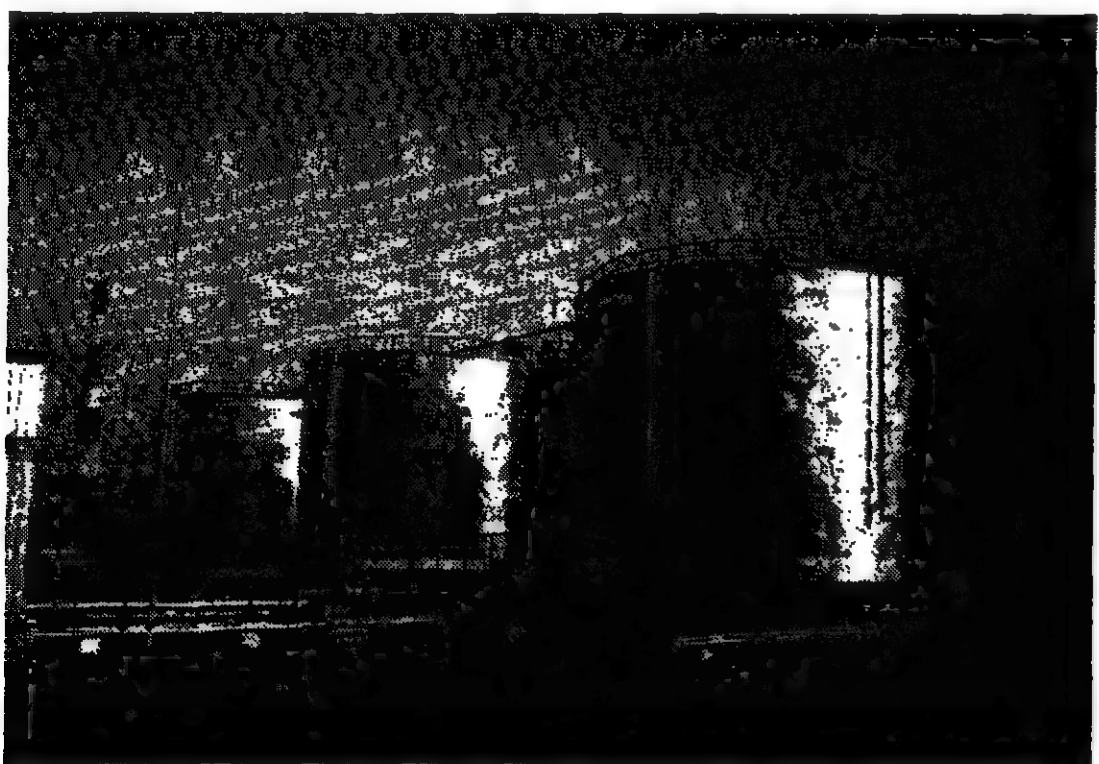
TT GROUP, the acquisitive mini-conglomerate, is to make a £15 million tender offer for a 27.46 per cent stake in Johnston Group, the family-controlled engineering company, offering 500p per Johnston share. Johnston shares yesterday rose 105p, to 478p. John Newman, TT's chairman, said that it was acquiring the stake as "a strategic investment". TT was not planning to make an offer for Johnston but might reconsider its position after a year or in the event of a bid by a third party.

## De Lorean case attacked

THE Government yesterday came under pressure from Lord Howe of Aberavon, the former Conservative Foreign Secretary, to drop its US damages claim against Arthur Andersen, the accountant, in the De Lorean case. He called in the Lords for "a fresh mind to be brought to bear on this litigious expense". The US courts recently ruled that the UK cannot use racketeering laws to claim up to an estimated \$1 billion damages. The ruling allows a narrower action.

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### Our Company

Emerol Limited, an oil and gas construction company with its head quarters in Dublin, has been active in the republic of Turkmenistan for four years. The company has developed a relationship of mutual understanding and trust with senior Government officials during this time, which has enabled the successful completion of a series of major infrastructure projects.

### Our Successes

Our involvement in Turkmenistan has included the completion of a number of construction projects to improve the efficiency of the oil and gas base of the country. Recently, Emerol Limited completed the construction and commissioning of a US \$3.5m oil and water separation facility, part of which is shown above, at the Turkmenbashi Oil Refinery, in the West of the country, sharing profits from the venture in the ratio 49:51 with the state owned refinery.

Using English technology the plant will treat polluted waste oil emulsion, the result of forty years of refining on the site, producing raw materials suitable for further refining and water of sufficient purity to be released into the environment without harmful side effects.

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working with like-minded governments of Turkmenistan who treat the environment seriously.

President Saparmyrat Niyazov of Turkmenistan has on many occasions expressed his concern that the development of his country be accompanied by improvements of environment in the Caspian Sea and surrounding region. By co-operating with the Government of Turkmenistan on environmental and other investment projects we have come to respect and understand the needs of the Government and hope that we will continue to work together in the future.

Recently, group president Mr. Vladimir Minskiy, was quoted as saying, "We value our relationship with the Government of Turkmenistan and hope to announce new important investment projects shortly. Our optimism stems from the stable and peaceful policies of the President of Republic and the high level of protection afforded to foreign investors by the laws of the country".

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Emerol Limited  
160 Kingston Road  
London SW20 8DN

Tel: 0181 545 0816  
Fax: 0181 543 9086

## Hill Samuel Base Rate

With effect from the close of business on Thursday 6th June, 1996 and until further notice, Hill Samuel Bank's Base Rate is

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All facilities (including regulated consumer credit agreements) with a rate of interest linked to Hill Samuel Bank's Base Rate will be varied accordingly.

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## Coutts & Co Base Rate.

With effect from Thursday 6th June 1996 Coutts & Co have decreased their Base Rate from

6.00% p.a. to 5.75% p.a.

Coutts & Co  
440 Strand, London WC2R 0QS

## Informative:

First Direct Base Rate

With effect from 6 June 1996, First Direct Base Rate has been reduced by 0.25% to 5.75%

HomeOwner Reserve

With effect from 6 June 1996, the HomeOwner Reserve rate has been reduced by 0.25% to 12.00% p.a. (APR 12.4%)

first direct

First Direct is a division of Midland Bank plc

Member HSBC Group



NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS

## NEW INTEREST RATE

With effect from 6th June 1996

our Base Rate has been reduced by 0.25% to 5.75% p.a.

Midland Bank plc

The Listening Bank

Member HSBC Group



□ Chancellor ignores inflation pessimists □ Too-generous package for Hephher □ Boots and WH Smith head for divorce

## Ken's election ring of confidence

JUST three weeks ago the Bank of England delivered a carefully worded warning to the Chancellor. When economic signals are ambiguous, it is easy to make policy misjudgments. It is therefore absolutely crucial that interest rate policy looks forward. Sure enough, yesterday's rate cut shows that Ken Clarke is looking forward... forward to the election.

Of course the move was political. What rate cut has not been? One City economist usefully pointed out yesterday that every Chancellor since the war has cut base rates within seven months of a general election. Caught out yet again by a Chancellor at ease with himself, the City's inflation alarmists were out in force, condemning Mr Clarke for putting his party's electoral prospects before the good of the economy.

To the extent that grossly wrong economic policy decisions have been made in the past for political reasons with dire consequences, such concerns are justified. But in truth this quarter-point cut in rates is too small to make any difference to the path of the economy. It will not help manufacturing industry to crawl out from under the weight of its stock piles, nor trigger an

explosion in inflation, nor, one suspects, gain the Government a single extra seat at the election.

But the move says a lot about this Chancellor. It is evidence, if any were needed, of his confidence. He erred towards monetary ease last year against the explicit advice of the Bank and the heavy of inflation alarmists in the City—and he was vindicated by events. If anyone had any illusions left that the Bank of England gained extra influence under the new monetary framework, they must surely now have vanished. If anything, the humiliation of giving advice in public and being overruled (rather than in private and being overruled as before) must leave the Bank weaker.

But it also marks the end of the inflation obsession that has dominated British policy for so long. Yesterday's move shows that the Chancellor believes that we are now in a genuinely low inflation environment and that structural reforms mean that the economy can grow more quickly,

with lower unemployment, without igniting inflation.

It is a telling coincidence that this rate cut coincided with a special report from the Chancellor's panel of economic advisers saying that the economy could grow by 3 per cent or more for the next three to five years without the danger of higher inflation. The Chancellor was not so much being political yesterday as showing that he is prepared to test the boundaries of his party's success in transforming the economy.

### BT's unacceptable pay extension

THE bickering in the City over predatory poaching of key staff by one investment bank from another is bitter enough. Imagine the rancour if the loser, on seeing its heavy hitters lured across the road for huge piles of cash, was required to continue paying them *in absentia*.

BT, though, is of a more

### PENNINGTON



generous nature. Michael Hephher, former managing director, has done an "Ian Martin". He has negotiated to stay on the payroll at his previous employer while firmly entrenched behind his new desk at the merchant bank Charterhouse.

Mr Martin, students of business fat-cattery will remember, is the former deputy chairman of Grand Metropolitan who managed the extraordinary feat of a £56,000 pay-off to compensate him for loss of office when he already had two other jobs to go to. He, like Mr Hephher, had been passed over for the top job. He went elsewhere, with little diffi-

culty and of his own free will.

It is worth quoting from this column on Mr Martin's windfall. "Payments for loss of office," we wrote, "are known as compensation payments, oddly enough, because they are designed to compensate the recipients for the heart-breaking experience of finding themselves out on the street." Neither Mr Martin nor Mr Hephher deserve compensation because neither lost their job. They merely failed to get a better one.

GrandMet is a quasi-American business with a concomitant history of generous pay packages. BT, by contrast, is a public utility whose directors are all too aware of the fuss over huge salaries in such businesses. BT says it is merely fulfilling the precise terms of Mr Hephher's contract. If so, that contract should never have been written.

Sir Iain Vallance, its chairman, has already shown great sensitivity by handing over some of his earnings to charity. But the sort of package given to Mr

Hephher, including share options and other perks, makes it very difficult for those not swept up in the fat cat hysteria to defend more acceptable levels of pay.

### Breaking up is hard to do

THERE IS nothing like a spot of DIY to provoke bitter marital discord, as anyone who has tried to hang wallpaper with a loved one will know. The marriage between Boots and WH Smith centred around the Do It All DIY sheds is heading messily for the divorce courts.

The two are citing irreconcilable differences. Smiths wants out, after years of pain. Boots is deeply hurt and believes it can all be patched up. I know we've had some tough times of late, my love, but why throw away all the good years?

Do It All, way behind B&Q and Homebase in that market, could be profitable shorn of about a third of the 200-strong

chain, but shedding these stores will be expensive, and Boots does not want to take that cost alone. Assume they do split. Most of the cards are held by Boots—its staff provide much of the Do It All management, and Boots has first refusal or veto on any sale of the Smiths stake.

Boots would want money to take the stores away, not unreasonably given the £50 million investment the loss-making business soaked up last year in addition to the £20 million the chain actually lost. Fine by Smiths, which has a new chief executive who can point to his predecessor to explain any resulting red ink. The two will work out a deal between them quite soon—ideally without recourse to divorce lawyers.

### Fat cat flap

CALPERS, the huge Californian state pension fund with a reputation for aggressive policing of corporate governance, is over in the UK putting the fear of God into British industry. Well, not all of it. General Counsel Richard Koppes says CalPERS is in favour of high rewards for executives who work for them. In other words, yes to fat cats on the treadmill, no to Michael Hephher.

## Medeva pays £260m to expand US operations

By OLIVER AUGUST

MEDAVA yesterday bought an American subsidiary of Rhône-Poulenc Rorer and several of its French products for a total of £260 million.

At the same time the pharmaceutical group announced a rights issue to help to fund the acquisition.

Medeva said that it wanted the pharmaceutical manufacturer based in Rochester, New York, for which it paid £240 million, to be the flagship of its operations in the United States. It spent an extra £20

million on a group of French pharmaceutical products. Medeva shares rose 30p to close at 261p after the announcement.

A one-for-six open offer of 50 million new ordinary shares at 220p each will raise £109 million. The remaining £131 million will be met from its existing cash resources and borrowings.

The group announced interim pre-tax profits of around £33 million for the six months to June 30, up on last year's

£28.9 million, and said it expected to raise its interim dividend to 1.65p from 1.4p.

Bill Bogie, chief executive of Medeva, said: "With the restructuring benefits offered by the Rochester site, this is Medeva's most significant step forward in terms of both its operations and its potential to deliver earnings growth for shareholders."

Dr Bogie said that the purchase of the Rochester unit, which includes ten pharmaceutical products, would

lift the US share of the group's total sales to 70 per cent from 62 per cent, and allow scope for restructuring.

"We're buying technology, we're buying products," Dr Bogie said. "We will be able to restructure our business and distribution in the US."

He added that the unit's leading product, a remedy for chronic coughing called Tussione, which uses patented technology for a delayed reaction, would be used to galvanise sales and profits.

Medeva plans to run its US administration from Rochester, where it has taken on 220 staff. It would not comment on possible job cuts in its 1,000 UK-based staff.

Rochester's newly acquired pharmaceutical products made an operating profit of £54.4 million last year, on sales of \$99.7 million. These products are focused on the respiratory, diuretic and appetite-suppressing areas.

Medeva will also acquire the rights to the patented technology that controls the release of active ingredients.

Tempus, page 28

## Chubb results disappoint

By CLARE STEWART

SHARES in Chubb, the security and locks group, fell 16p to 336p after its year-end figures came in below City forecasts. Pre-tax profits for the year to March rose 9 per cent to £97.1 million, just under the £100 million expected. Sales rose by 7.2 per cent to £765 million.

The headline figures reflect higher redundancy and re-

structuring costs last year, which rose by £1.9 million to £5.5 million. David Peacock, chief executive, said: "If we had not spent that money, our profits would have been in line with forecasts. But it was right to do it to build the business."

Expansion through organic growth and acquisitions is anticipated, said Mr Peacock.

Chubb Vision is a new division just formed to specialise in CCTV security while the group last week acquired MSS Security in Australia for £21 million.

At the year end, Chubb's cash pile had grown to £87 million. Chubb is paying a final dividend of 5.8p giving a total of 5.4p, up 14.75 per cent on the previous year.

## Pilkington steers way back to black

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

PILKINGTON, the glass-maker, is counting on a price rise of 8 to 10 per cent to beat weak European markets.

The company, whose chief executive is Roger Leventon, made pre-tax profits of £55 million for the year to March 31 after a £155 million exceptional charge for restructuring. Last year, it incurred a £24 million loss, including exceptional costs.

The restructuring, which has cost 600 jobs, mainly in Germany, and will involve another 1,300, should benefit the company by about £70 million a year when complete in three years' time. The £155 million charge is made up of £82 million in asset writedowns and £73 million for redundancy and restructuring costs.

Turnover rose 10 per cent, to £2.89 billion, and operating profit 26 per cent, to £214 mil-



Leventon: restructuring

lion. The dividend rises to 5p, from 4.2p, with a 3.25p final. Pressure on commodity glass prices on the Continent led Pilkington to raise prices by up to 10 per cent on June 1. Competitors are also raising their prices, suggesting the increases may stick.

Tempus, page 28

## 3i sees value of investments climb

By PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE venture capital firm 3i enjoyed a 23.1 per cent rise in its net asset value per share to 426p at the end of the year to March 31, helped by increases in stock market values worldwide.

In its first set of full-year figures since floating in summer 1994, 3i reported a 25.4 per cent return on opening shareholders' funds. That compares with a 25.2 per cent increase in the FT-SE A all share total return index and a 25.6 per cent rise in the FT-SE smallcap total return index.

Brian Larcombe, finance director, said 3i's UK return was 28.3 per cent, but the total return was held back by a 12.1 per cent international return.

Mr Larcombe said the current year had started well, with "investment levels continuing at a fairly high level". He said the new issue market had

been particularly strong, with five floatations in the last two months.

3i invested £613 million over the year just ended, a rise of 13.7 per cent. It invested in 554 businesses. Larger new investments during the year included £20 million in Lloyd's of London Press and £13 million in Crompton Specialist Paper-makers. Management buy-outs and buyins represented 56 per cent of the total amount invested and 33 per cent of the larger investments.

The dividend for the year is 12.5 per cent higher at 8.1p, with the final payment of 5p due on July 26.

Mr Larcombe said the firm had found the market becoming more competitive, which put pressure on investment terms. But this had not given the company cause for concern about transaction terms.

## Results to savour from Siebe.

(Record results from appliance controls to process automation.)



Preliminary results for the financial year ended April 6, 1996	1996	1995	% change
Turnover (£m)	2,520.1	2,146.2	up 21.1%
Pre-tax profit (£m)	231.1	275.1	up 20.4%
Earnings per share (pence)	45.0	37.5	up 20.0%
Dividend per share (pence)	13.31	12.1	up 10.0%

Control Systems • Temperature & Appliance Controls • Industrial Equipment • Unitech

"These results, which represent a remarkable achievement for the Group, are particularly gratifying since they not only demonstrate that we can deliver an outstanding performance for shareholders where markets are buoyant, but

that we can also deliver robust results from those regions of the world where economies are not so strong. This is testimony indeed to the successful way in which Siebe is managed."

Barrie Stephens, Chairman.



SIEBE THE ENGINEER. HERE, THERE AND EVERYWHERE.

Siebe plc, Saxon House, 2-4 Victoria Street, Windsor, Berkshire SL4 1EN, England. Tel 01753 855411.

### ANZ Grindlays Base Rate

ANZ Grindlays Bank plc announces that its base rate has changed from 6.00% to 5.75% with effect from close of business 6th June 1996.

**ANZ Grindlays Bank**  
Private Banking

13 St James's Square, London SW1Y 4LF  
Telephone: 0171-930 4811  
Member ANZ Group

### Base Rate

Morgan Grenfell & Co. Limited announces that its Base Rate has been amended from 6% to 5.75% per annum with effect from 6 June 1996 until further notice.

All facilities (including regulated consumer credit agreements) with a rate linked to Morgan Grenfell & Co. Limited Base Rate will be varied accordingly.

Morgan Grenfell & Co. Limited  
23 Great Winchester Street, London EC2P 2AX  
Regulated by The Solicitors and Financials Authority

Deutsche Morgan Grenfell

### Bank of Ireland Base Rate

Bank of Ireland announces that with effect from close of business on 7th June 1996 its Base Rate has decreased from 6% to 5.75%



**Bank of Ireland**

HEAD Office, 38 Queens Street, London EC4R 1BN

### NatWest Business Accounts Interest Rates

NatWest announces the following interest rates, effective from 7 June 1996:

Solicitors' Reserve Account		
Gross Interest per annum	Balance	Gross Compounded Annual Rate
3.750%	Instant Access—No minimum deposit/withdrawal	3.80%
3.625%	£250,000 and above	3.67%
3.250%	£25,000 – £99,999	3.29%
2.625%	£2,000 – £24,999	2.65%
1.750%	£500 – £1,999	1.76%
0.750%	£0 – £499	0.75%

Where appropriate, tax will be deducted at source from interest credited or paid which may be reclaimed by holders (non-taxpayers). Subject to the required registration form, interest will be paid gross.

†† Gross Compounded Annual Rate is the true annual return on your deposits if the interest payments are retained in the account.

**NatWest**

National Westminster Bank Plc, 41 Lombury, London EC2P 2BP



# Celebrations short-lived over interest rate cuts

THE stock market gave a lukewarm response to the latest cut in bank base rates, to 5.75 per cent, which followed hot on the heels of Wednesday's monthly meeting between Kenneth Clarke, Chancellor, and Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England. The cut was achieved with the help of sterling's recent gains on the foreign exchange.

The cut was quickly followed by the Halifax, Britain's biggest mortgage lender, which reduced the rate it charges borrowers. The move to cheaper money appears to have caught most of the City on the hop.

The one man who will have cause to give a wry smile is Roger Bootle, chief economist of Midland Bank, who is on record as forecasting a drop in rates to 5.5 per cent before the end of the summer.

But the celebrations in the equity market proved short-lived. An early mark-up saw the FT-SE 100 index touch 3,774.7. It failed to hold on to the early gains, closing 6.9 points up at 3,760.3. Business was again selective, with a total of 852 million shares traded. A hesitant start on Wall Street did not help.

Whispers in the Square Mile last night claimed BBA will launch its blocking bid for Lucas today. The terms are expected to value Lucas at around 275p a share. Last week, Lucas announced plans for a £3.2 billion merger with Varsity Corporation in the US. But there is also talk that another bidder may be lurking in the wings. Lucas closed steady at 254p, while BBA rose 8p to 303p.

The prospect of the mortgage price war intensifying took some of the recent shine off the banks. Abbey National fell 1p to 553p. Barclays Bank 13 1/4p to 765p. Lloyds TSB 8 1/4p to 314 1/4p. National Westminster 7 1/4p to 629p, and Royal Bank of Scotland 7p to 532p.

There was support for Standard Chartered, that old favourite, which rose 15p to an all-time high of 665p. Brokers say that NatWest Securities is to take fund managers to see the group's Far East operations.

British Gas flared 1p to 190 1/4p, with the market deciding that the domestic gas price review from Ofgas, the industry regulator, was unlikely to do much damage to profits. A profits upgrading by ABN



Ewen MacPherson, right, and Brian Larcombe of 3i, up 1p

Amro Hoare Govett was good for British Airways, which rose 1p to 549p.

Medeva, the fast-growing pharmaceutical group, surged 3 1/2p to 263p as it revealed plans to pay Rhône-Poulenc 10p per share for its 25 per cent stake in the group. The move was seen as a sign of confidence in the company's future.

A UBS meeting of FT-SE 250 Mid constituents was attended by 100 fund managers. Compass, one of the companies present, up 4p to 591p, revealed that during the next three to five years the group will order its food purchases on a worldwide basis. Such a move will result in 10 per cent savings on its annual £1.2 billion food bill.

before RPR launched its £1.8 billion bid last year. Ironically, Rhône-Poulenc outbid Medeva for Pisons. To help finance the deal, Medeva is raising £108.7 million through a placing and open offer of 49.4 million shares at 220p.

The profits downturn at Boots came as no surprise and the shares fell 2p to 608p. The group revealed that its share of losses at Do-It-All,

the joint venture with WH Smith, reached £610 million. Some optimistic comments about prospects lifted Pilkington, Britain's biggest glassmaker, 7p to 205p. The group said that restructuring was progressing, with some benefits expected to accrue in the current year. It came as the group announced a rise of almost 50 per cent in profits to

£212 million, struck before charges of £157 million relating to the cost of restructuring. Cazenove, BZW and Charterhouse, the company's joint brokers, are forecasting around £250 million for the current year.

Johnston Group surged 10 1/2p to 478p on the news that TT Group wanted to buy 2.93 million shares, 27.46 per cent, at 500p in the market place. It

describes the move as a strategic investment but will consider its position after a year. TT closed all-square at 357p.

Amtec, the Dublin oil exploration group, rose 5p to 64p after International Finance announced it wanted seven million shares at up to 60p.

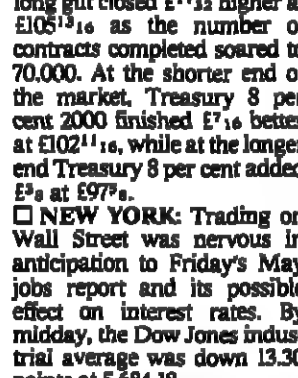
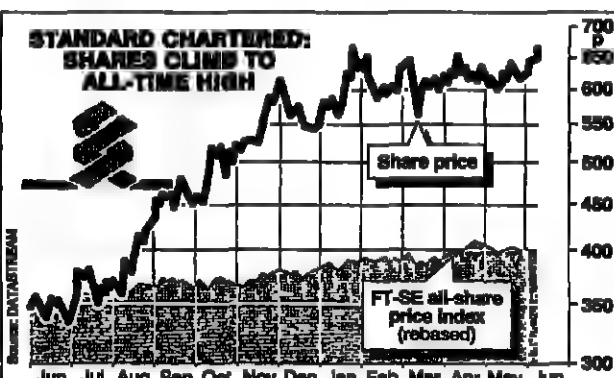
Siebel responded to an impressive increase in full-year profits with a rise of 1 1/2p to 87p, while profits news lifted Northern Ireland Electricity 19p to 433p. 3i, the venture capitalist, whose chief executive is Ewen MacPherson and financial director Brian Larcombe, also firmed up to 453p, having raised pre-tax profits last year from £75.8 million to £88.9 million. But there was a cool response to figures from Chubb, the security specialist, which closed 16p lower at 336p.

Mayflower Corporation, the specialist engineer that makes body panels for the MG sports car, shook the market by asking shareholders to dig deep into their pockets for a major acquisition. It rose 12 1/2p to 129p.

European Colour, the printing inks specialist, firmed up to 78p. Pre-tax profits leapt 55 per cent, with earnings 32 per cent higher as the group increased markets share. The outcome was boosted by the Dycoms acquisition.

GILT-EDGED: Prices at the shorter end benefited most from the latest cut in base rates, resulting in a further steepening of the yield curve. The market shrugged aside worries about a revival in inflationary pressures to enjoy an early mark-up. In fact, news of the cut in rates was greeted with a move that saw prices revert to their overnight levels. Only when US bonds opened on a firmer note did London move again into positive territory. In the futures pit, the September series of the long gilt closed 1 1/2p higher at £105 1/4, as the number of contracts completed soared to 70,000. At the shorter end of the market, Treasury 8 per cent 2000 finished 1 1/2p better at £102 1/4, while at the longer end Treasury 8 per cent added 1 1/2p to £97 1/4.

NEW YORK: Trading on Wall Street was nervous in anticipation to Friday's May jobs report and its possible effect on interest rates. By midday, the Dow Jones Industrial average was down 13.30 points at 5,684.18.



## MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday): Dow Jones 5684.18 (-13.30)

S&P Composite 676.96 (-1.48)

Tokyo: Nikkei Average 21804.46 (-76.97)

Hong Kong: Hang Seng 11225.83 (+133.32)

Amsterdam: EOE index 571.76 (+1.07)

Sydney: AO 2213.8 (-5.59)

Frankfurt: DAX Closed

Singapore: Straits 2334.26 (+7.45)

Brussels: General 9480.02 (-7.22)

Paris: CAC-40 2153.22 (+17.87)

Zurich: SIK Gen 783.80 (+4.10)

London: FT 100 3760.3 (+6.9)

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## TEMPUS

### Plunging into the pool

IT WAS with some nostalgia yesterday that privatisation watchers noted the ritualistic announcement of shareholder sweeteners to accompany the British Energy flotation. It is the last of a long line that was meant to start with British Airways in the early 80s but actually started with British Telecom in 1984.

Even the advertising campaign is called a "final burst of energy" — appropriate enough for British Energy, which supplies 18 per cent of Britain's electricity from eight English and Scottish nuclear power stations and was valued yesterday at between £1.5 billion and £2.1 billion. Private investors have a choice of either a 10p discount per share or a one for 15 share bonus. A pathfinder prospectus is due out on Monday and potential investors may care to consider how British Energy fits into a market dominated by the already privatised

PowerGen and National Power. Without being so rude as to pre-empt what the Government says in its prospectus it seems that British Energy either flies or falls on the performance of the wholesale electricity pool price, whose dizzy heights have not gone unnoted in the past.

Brokers at Merrill Lynch, for instance, reckon that British Energy revenues will be lower in real terms during the year 2000 than in 1996 because of pool price weakness. They note that a price war among pool suppliers is less likely than managed competition at which PowerGen and National Power sell to the pool at a level comfortably above production cost. A price war, however, is regarded as "still a serious risk". Those buying the shares should note what might happen to their price if a price war breaks out.

## Pilkington

THOSE seeking a long-term perspective on Pilkington should look at our chart on the share price performance since the failed BTR bid in 1986-87. But in the present economic cycle, the signs are that Pilkington is getting itself into a good position for its next turn.

The costly restructuring programme revealed in March looked a little strange because it came shortly after a rights issue, but it turned out to be a logical move. The purchase of STV, the Italian glassmaker, with the money raised made Pilkington realise how it could reorganise and enhance automotive glass.

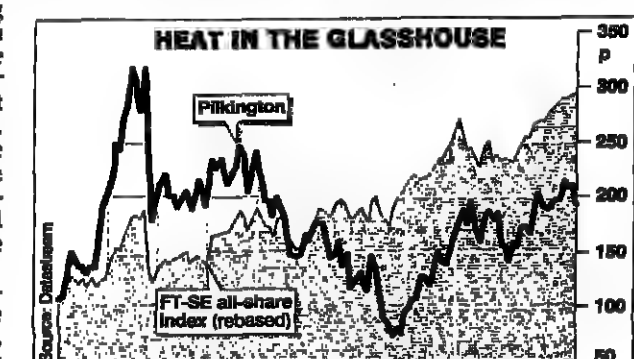
Pilkington had already begun to trim costs under the guidance of Roger Leventon, chief executive, but it was STV which gave it the idea of

refocusing its European automotive glass manufacturing so that individual plants concentrate on fewer products and thus increase productivity.

Its other key restructuring move, cutting back its glass for construction production in Germany, looks equally wise as its housing market remains in the doldrums.

Even after rationalisation, neither of Pilkington's main areas — automobiles and buildings — are likely to be particularly comfortable places to be, even after yesterday's base rate cut.

But shareholders, with their dividend at 5p, compared to 4.2p last year, have reason to be reassured that the company can cope.



## Siebel

SIEBEL can count the manufacturing of air conditioners among its many skills, so it was rather apt that the company chose the hottest day of the year so far to unveil another scoring set of results.

The biggest surprise sprung by the electrical engineering group yesterday was that it can still generate sufficient growth to more than satisfy shareholders who have become used to the company's share price outperforming the FT-SE 100 by 500 per cent since 1991.

The company was also bullish about current market conditions, suggesting that growth is unlikely to falter in the next 12 months.

Siebel is now the country's largest engineering combine, although the fact that nearly 95 per cent of its sales are made abroad has rather hidden its success from public view. The recent acquisition of Unitech has opened up far

## Medeva

MEDEVA's American and French acquisitions are well timed. They will reduce the group's exposure to risk as the range of drugs is broadened, and earnings for the group as a whole will be enhanced significantly. BZW

## Eastern markets for Siebel

THE one leading economic area in which the company had previously failed to establish a sizeable presence. The company was also cautiously suggesting yesterday that the Unitech acquisition would be earnings enhancing as early as this year. Siebel also has sufficient cash to continue acquiring bolt-ons, which have been the mainstay of its expansion over the past few years.

Siebel shares carry a premium and sit on a forward price earnings ratio of around 17 times. But the medium-term outlook remains sunny and the company deserves continued support.

## Medeva

MEDEVA's American and French acquisitions are well timed. They will reduce the group's exposure to risk as the range of drugs is broadened, and earnings for the group as a whole will be enhanced significantly. BZW

The shares rose 30p to 261p yesterday despite a one-for-six open offer to raise £109 million at 220p. The rest of the purchase price will be met from cash and borrowings.

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE			
COCOA			
Jul	1088-1089	May	1091 800
Aug	1115-1116	Dec	1094-1095
Dec	1047-1048	May	1072 800
Mar	1028-1029	May	1063-1064
May	1024 800	May	1063-1064
Jul	1042 800	Volume	12654
ROBUSTA COFFEE (p)			
Jul	1745-1746	Mar	1668-1669
Aug	1745-1746	Mar	1668-1669
Nov	1717-1718	Jul	1650-1651
Dec	1699-1699	Volume	2539
WHITE SUGAR (p)			
Beans	3240-3242	May	3238-3239
Sug 392L	May	3238-3239	
Aug	3240-3242	May	3238-3239
Dec	3240-3242	May	3238-3239
Dec	3240-3242	Volume	2034
MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION			
Average Intermid prices at representative markets on June 9			
(p/kg liv)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
Gr	113.01	146.03	101.01
(+/-)	-6.42	-3.42	-2.25
Gr/Wholes	113.61	146.40	100.97
(+/-)	-1.87	-1.81	-0.81
(+/-)	-9.0	+12.0	+3.0
Gr/Wholes	147.03	160.03	101.03
(+/-)	-3.8	-3.8	-3.8
(+/-)	-3.8	-3.8	-3.8

ICE-10R (London) (p/mt)			
ICE-10R (p/mt) (p/mt)			
Brant	17.81	0.30	
Brant 15 day (rail)	17.81	-0.10	
Brant 15 day (Aug)	17.81	-0.10	
W Tense Intermediate (Jul)	19.05	-0.10	
W Tense Intermediate (Aug)	19.05	-0.10	
PRODUCTS (p/mt)			
Spot C/P NW Europe (grossed delivery)			
Cowol	182	0.04	
Preminum Ultra	182	0.14 (-2)	
Preminum	182	0.03	
3-2-2	82-83	84 (-1)	
Naphtha	175-14	178-4	
IPE FUTURES (p/mt)			
GAS OIL			
Jul	180.20-82.0	Oct	181.25-86.30
Aug	180.20-82.0	Oct	181.25-86.30
Aug	181.25-86.30	Nov	181.25-86.30
Aug	181.25-86.30	Nov	181.25-86.30
BRENT (p/mt)			
Jul	180.20-82.0	Oct	181.25-86.30
Aug	181.25-86.30	Nov	181.25-86.30
Aug	181.25-86.30	Nov	181.25-86.30
Aug	181.25-86.30	Nov	181.25-86.30
LONDON METAL EXCHANGE			
Copper (p/mt) (p/mt)			
Jul	180.20-82.0	Oct	181.25-86.30
Aug	181.25-86.30	Nov	181.25-86.30
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# Siebe looks for early boost from Unitech

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

SIEBE, the engineering company, said yesterday that strong growth was continuing in its main European and American markets, with new business bookings about 15 per cent ahead.

The company was also bullish about prospects for Unitech, which it bought for £500 million last month. Barry Stephens, Siebe chairman, said that the deal may enhance earnings in the first year, with Unitech's markets also showing growth.

The comments came after Siebe unveiled strong full-year results for the year to April 6, with pre-tax profits growing

by 20 per cent, to £331 million. The results impressed the City, leading many analysts to raise profit forecasts, and the shares rose 22p, to 880p.

Overall turnover increased by 21 per cent, to £2.6 billion, while currency exchange movements boosted profits by £3.5 million. The company's nine new small acquisitions, bought for a total of £244 million, contributed operating profits of £28 million.

Siebe said that the control systems division was continuing to make market share gains from its US rivals Emerson Electric and Honeywell Inc. Operating profits rose by 22 per cent, to £153 million, aided by organic sales growth of 17 per cent.

The temperature and appliance controls division increased profits by 10 per cent to £141 million, although volumes fell in North America and the European market also showed some weakness. The three smaller divisions, which include compressed air, mechanical engineering and safety products, also raised profits by 39 per cent to £74 million.

Siebe raised its research and development budget by 32 per cent, to £115 million. Capital spending grew by 26.5 per cent, to £189 million.

The company said that it would continue to set financial targets of organic growth of 10 per cent and a 5 per cent cut in costs to provide a 15 per cent rise in profits. Siebe achieved a total of 17.3 per cent organic growth last year, including 12.6 per cent sales growth.

Year-end gearing was 41 per cent, including the purchase of 25 per cent of Unitech in March. The company was confident that strong cash flow would limit gearing to about 50 per cent by the end of this year, in spite of remaining payments for Unitech.

The total dividend rises by 10 per cent, to 13.3p. An 8.8p final dividend is due on October 1.

Tempus, page 28

## Showa to open plant in Wales

WALES welcomed its 50th Japanese-owned company yesterday as Showa Corporation, the automotive components manufacturer, announced plans to establish a manufacturing plant in the Cynon Valley (Iola Smith writes).

The £10 million investment will create 200 much-needed jobs in an unemployment black spot. This will be Showa's first car component manufacturing plant in Europe, and it will produce power steering and suspension systems for the Continent's carmakers.

Wales won the investment despite strong competition from the West Midlands and Spain.

Japanese-owned companies have invested £1.5 billion in Wales since the first company, Takiron, moved to the principality in 1972. Together, these companies have created 16,000 jobs.



Dr Patrick Haren is expected to see Northern Ireland Electricity criticised

## Northern Ireland Electricity surges 23%

BY EILEEN McCABE

NORTHERN Ireland Electricity (NIE) recorded a 23.7 per cent surge in pre-tax profits to £107.4 million in the year to March 31. Sales revenues for the period were up 5.4 per cent, to £524.7 million.

Earnings per share went up 43.4 pence, to 58.8p, largely helped by a 14.9 per cent share buy-back in August 1995. The shares rose 19p, to 433p, yesterday.

David Jeffries, chairman, attributed the "excellent" results to a combination of tight controls on operating costs and increased sales.

However, the figures from NIE, of which Dr Patrick Haren is chief executive, are widely expected to attract criticism by groups representing both domestic consumers and big industrial users over the high cost of NIE's service. Electricity costs in Northern Ireland are among the highest in the UK.

Mr Jeffries said that the company had devoted considerable time and effort to the important issue of tariffs. He added that a combination of government aid towards the reduction of generation costs and the decision by NIE to restrict 1995/96 tariff increases to an average of 2.3 per cent would go some way to addressing the problem.

The outcome of NIE's regulatory review, due in March 1997, would "set the pattern of our development in the years ahead", Mr Jeffries said.

He added: "With a fair outcome from the review... we should be well placed to continue to deliver real value to both customers and shareholders."

## Mayflower acquisition cash call

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

MAYFLOWER Corporation, the specialist engineering company, aims to raise £139 million through a seven-for-ten rights issue to help to fund the purchase of the Pullman Company, owner of Clevite, the US component maker.

John Simpson, Mayflower's chief executive, said the acquisition of Pullman for £172

million, which will require additional bank funding, "represents a further step forward in Mayflower's strategy to develop a global automotive engineering business."

Pullman's only business is Clevite, maker of vibration control components for the automotive industry. Mayflower's last major purchase

was in August, when it bought Walter Alexander, one of Britain's biggest bus makers.

Mayflower's 95p per share rights issue has been underwritten by BZW and Merrill Lynch.

The Pullman acquisition is conditional upon shareholders' approval and the company has called an extra-

ordinary general meeting for June 24.

Mayflower said it has made a good start to 1996 and is optimistic about its first-half results. It is best known as maker of the bodies for Rover Group's MGF sports car and for the next generation of Rolls-Royce and Bentley models.

## Oxford Instruments advances to £21m

OXFORD INSTRUMENTS, the advanced instrumentation company, increased pre-tax profits to £21.5 million, from £18 million, in the year to the end of March. Earnings improved to 7.6p a share, from 5.7p, and the total dividend is lifted to 6.5p a share, from 5.7p, with a 4.6p final. The shares fell 5p to 513p. Turnover rose to £146.3 million, from £125.2 million. New orders improved 15 per cent, to £151 million, with the increase gathering pace in the second half. Exports and overseas sales accounted for more than 85 per cent of output. As the year-end, net cash was £16.4 million, an increase of £900,000 since the previous year-end despite expenditure of £4.9 million on new manufacturing facilities.

Operating profits were 22 per cent higher, at £13.6 million. Sales and service companies in America, Germany and Japan all traded at a profit. A strong contribution was made by the microanalysis business, which was strengthened by the acquisition of Microspec Corporation.

## Copper prices tumble

COPPER prices fell by 10 per cent yesterday, to their lowest in 25 months. The London Metal Exchange quotation for copper — a guide for pricing contracts worldwide — was \$2,085 a metric ton, against \$2,322 on Wednesday, a drop of 10.2 per cent. At one point yesterday, the price fell to \$1,905. Copper, a major export earner for Chile, Zambia, Zaire and Peru, was quoted at about \$2,600 at the start of the year. Prices of most other base metals, including aluminium, nickel and zinc, were also lower. Gold hit a year low and platinum a two-year low.

## Windsor losses leap

WINDSOR, the insurance broker, saw losses deepen to £332,000 before tax from £31,000 in the half-year to March 31 after an exceptional charge of £337,000 against a loss on the sale of investment property. Losses per share were 0.04p (0.16p loss). The company is again offering no interim dividend. The shares closed down 1p to 23p. Stuart McDonald has stepped down as chairman, to be replaced by David Low, formerly chairman of Regis Low, a Lloyd's of London broker.

## Airsprung slips back

AIRSPRUNG FURNITURE GROUP, the manufacturer of beds, furniture and upholstery, is holding the total dividend at 5.4p a share, with an unchanged 3.7p final, after reporting a fall in profits to £5.4 million before tax, from £6.8 million in the year to March 31. Earnings fell to 13.9p a share from 18.2p. John Pierce, chief executive, said that in spite of the constraints of a dull market and accelerating raw material prices, the underlying business of the group remained sound. The shares fell 3p to 252p.

## Wyndeham at record

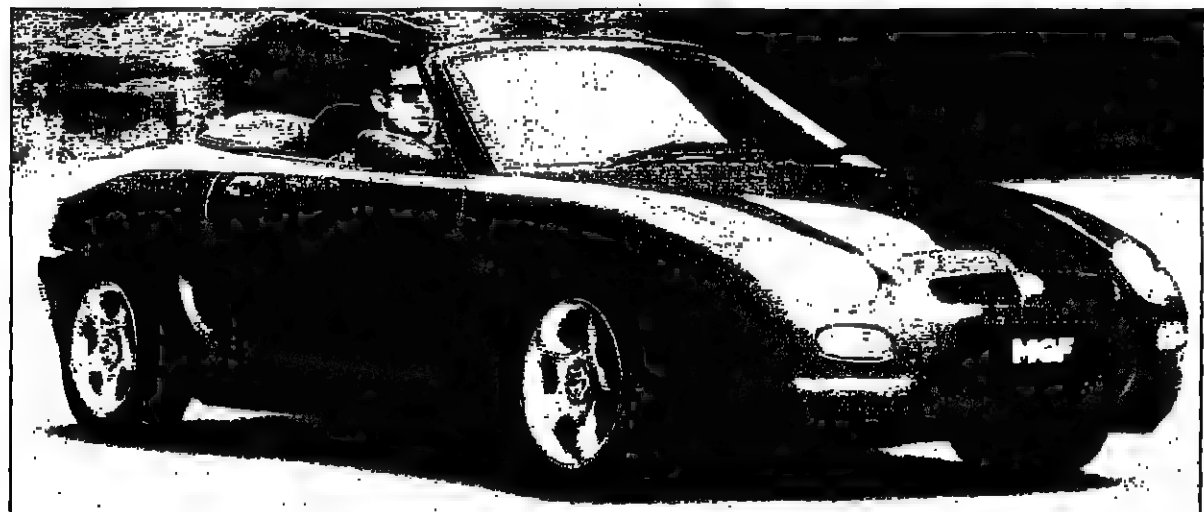
WYNDEHAM Press Group, the acquisitive printing and packaging company, lifted profits to a record £5.12 million before tax from £3.5 million, in the year ended March 31. Earnings rose to 12.5p a share from 10.6p. A final dividend of 2.7p a share lifts the total payment to 4.3p, from 3.75p. Turnover increased to £36.99 million from £25.96 million, with a £4.64 million contribution from acquisitions. The shares rose 3p to close at 228p yesterday.

## Chadburn in the red

PORTER CHADBURN, the self-adhesive label company, achieved a 20 per cent increase in operating profits to £4.1 million in the year to March 29. However, at the pre-tax level there was a loss of £4.5 million, compared with profits of £2.96 million, after an £8.6 million goodwill charge arising from the sale of S Ross & Co, announced in March. Adjusted earnings rose to 3.52p a share from 3.06p. There is again no dividend. The shares rose 1p to 39p.

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# Win an MGF worth £17,000



Today *The Times* gives you the chance to win an exciting new MGF. Simply collect six differently numbered tokens and complete the entry form which was published on Monday and will appear again tomorrow for your chance to win the MGF 1.8i.

The relaunch of the MGF after a 15-year gap, revives the golden days of carefree motoring and is the first car Rover has built without Honda or BMW influence since the Austin Montego.

It is an affordable and stylish open-top British sports car for the nineties with excellent handling and performance. Unlike its predecessors, it has a mid-engine, rear wheel drive layout and one of the most advanced production engines in the world. Because the weight of the engine is over the driven wheels the car is well-balanced and has excellent grip under acceleration allowing you to handle bends at speed.

Although the look is modern, the design of the grille reflects the MG's sporty heritage. It is a design that has produced a

frame stiffer than any convertible other than a Mercedes SL, and the car barely feels a ripple in the road; the ride is one of the best in any two-seater. Other features include a driver's airbag as standard and seatbelt pre-tensioners which tighten the seatbelts just before the airbag is activated to help keep the occupants securely seated; power steering, spoke alloy wheels and independent suspension all round with double wishbones, plus front and rear anti-roll bars.

Two simple latches fasten the hood to the header rail so you can fold it down in under a minute. For extra fresh air with the hood up, you can unzip the tinted plastic backlight.

The MGF has one of the strongest bodies ever constructed for a sports two-seater ensuring structural safety.

Inside, features include ivory-coloured dials of the instrument panel which recall the traditional MG design, a 20 watts per channel electronic stereo radio cassette and Radio Data System with traffic information to help you avoid jams. Electric windows are provided as standard. Luggage space is also generous with room for two full sets of golf clubs.

### HOW TO ENTER

For your chance to win the MGF 1.8i collect six differently numbered tokens from those appearing daily in *The Times* until Saturday, June 15, 1996. (You may enter twice if you wish.) Send them with the completed entry form to: *The Times* MG Prize Draw Competition, PO Box 3385, London, SE7 7ZL.

**PRIZE DRAW CONDITIONS**  
The prize draw is open to all *Times* readers over 18. The winner will be chosen at random from all entries received before the closing date of June 21, 1996. The prize is not transferable. There is no cash alternative. Normal *Times* Newspaper competition rules apply.



## Ports group slides to £6m loss

BY PATRICIA TEHAN

POWELL DUFFRYN, the engineering, ports and distribution group, suffered a £6.4 million loss (£24.1 million profit) in the year to March 31 after a £34.3 million exceptional losses.

The exceptional losses related mostly to two charges reported in its interim results — a fire that took place in April last year at its bulk storage terminal in Savannah, Georgia, and the settlement of a legal action in Germany involving events between 1979 and 1982.

Profits were also hit by rising product prices and the petrol price wars.

Barry Hartiss, chief executive, said the company, which has fully owned the ports business since last year, would focus on its ports and shipping services business and on its engineering operations.

The company aims to pull out of its terminals, fuel distribution and "other businesses" over the next two years. The book value of non-core operations is shown as £85.6 million. The dividend stays at 25p (24.8p), with the final dividend of 17p due on August 8.

## Opec talks on options for Iraq

FROM REUTERS IN VIENNA

OIL ministers of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) sought to resolve differences on how the cartel will manage the re-entry of Iraq to an already well-supplied world oil market at a closed session yesterday.

Earlier, Iraq's Oil Minister told reporters his nation hoped to sign its first contract to resume selling oil under a relaxed UN Gulf War embargo in just ten days.

A UN decision last month to ease the ban on Iraq, imposed when it invaded Kuwait in 1990, poses the risk of oversupply. The market is already burdened by quota violations by some of Opec's 12 members.

Producers are reluctant to cut output.

Ministers briefly resumed a plenary meeting of their hundredth Opec conference, begun on Wednesday, then went into closed session. Delegates said the most likely outcome was that Opec would adopt a Saudi-backed formula to raise its current overall quota ceiling.

## Midlands Electricity profits edge ahead

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

MIDLANDS ELECTRICITY, the regional company now under American ownership after a joint bid became unconditional yesterday, notched up a marginal rise in pre-tax profits as the distribution price control took effect.

The company, now controlled by General Public Utilities of New Jersey and CInergy of Ohio, edged ahead to £214.1 million from £213.5 million in the year to March 31. The distribution operations saw a fall in operating profits of £12.1 million.

The company offset some of the impact of the regulator's controls in distribution with increased electricity demand from industrial customers. Demand rose 4.2 per cent,

lifted partly by last year's hot summer and higher use of air-conditioning.

A price freeze on household bills will be reviewed by July when the British Energy flotation is complete, along with the phasing out of the nuclear levy. The freeze, which applied last year, was extended in April, partly for the nuclear levy consideration and partly because Midlands has been at the centre of bid speculation. Its new owners took over only last month.

Four hundred more jobs went last year as part of the phased three-year programme of job reductions. The company said it had curbed controllable costs by a further 12.7 per cent.

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## Lukewarm response to rates cut

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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## THEATRE 1

A fine Donmar Warehouse revival reveals the subtleties in Alan Bennett's *Habeas Corpus*



## THEATRE 2

... but nothing can redeem the dreary *Camelot*, now being staged by the Covent Garden Festival

## THE TIMES ARTS



## TELEVISION

No philistines here: the BBC claims that its arts programmes are as good as ever



## MUSIC

Russian pianist Evgeny Kissin and conductor Yevgeny Svetlanov make a thrilling team at the Festival Hall

THEATRE: A Bennett farce reworked as a seaside postcard; plus Arthurian malarkey

# Strong meat with the saucy

When Alan Bennett's *Habeas Corpus* was first staged, back in 1973, the impression it left was of a collaboration between Wilde and Orton. Many of the lines might have come swagging from *The Importance of Being Earnest*, and both the sex-mad doctors at the centre had clearly stumbled in from *What the Butler Saw*. A quarter of a century later, though, the play seems an odder, more fascinating mix. It is as if the Donald McGill of all those naughty seaside postcards had got together with the Webster who "saw the skull beneath the skin" to create an updated Jacobean farce about physical decay.

Is it because I myself have sloughed several layers of skin since then that I appreciated the piece far more than I did 23 years ago? Or, as I suspect, does Sam Mendes's revival serve it better? Another thing the first production of *Habeas Corpus* had in common with the premiere of *What the Butler Saw* was a wildly miscast theatrical knight in the lead. Orton's farce foundered on a solid Ralph Richardson, as did Bennett's on an over-fastidious Alec Guinness. With Jim Broadbent bringing wary charisma as well as a touch of bleakness to the role of the seedy Dr Wickstead, and a remarkably strong cast blundering round his consulting rooms, *Corpus*'s blend of caricature, melancholy and

## Habeas Corpus Donmar

disgust now emerges more fully.

McGill's influence is not just to be seen in Wickstead's lechery and Brighton-and-Hove habit. Brenda Blethyn plays his neglected, frustrated, massive-bosomed wife with a sort of ravenous twopeness. The cast list also includes Nicholas Woodeson as the tiny, strutting physician she rejected

6 Always more funny than pretentious or disorientating

years before. Hugh Bonneville as a lovelorn canon called Throbbing, Sarah Woodward as the spindly, flat-chested spinster he lusts after, Celia Imrie as a colonial grandee called Lady Rumpers, Natalie Walter as her sexpot daughter and John Padden as the scrappy hypochondriac who eventually takes her, pregnant by another man, to the altar. Add Imelda Staunton as a slovenly char called Mrs Swabb and you can see that Bennett is not exactly at his most subtle and sensitive here.

And yet in a way he is. The

characters rush about, doing hilariously over-the-top things such as mistaking falsies for real breasts and breasts for falsies; but you are always aware that their frantic pursuit of sex reflects a chaos in themselves. Mostly, they hate who they are: "The body's an empty vessel, the flesh is just an abattoir for our rotting lumps of meat. So if you get your heart's desire, your longings come to pass, remember in each other's beds it isn't going to last." If I tell you that the speaker is the scarred Staunton, you will see what I mean by odd. In *Habeas Corpus* people regularly break into rhyme, and the cleaning lady is the chorus.

And that is not just theatrical game-playing. Like *What the Butler Saw*, the play has an unsettling, dreamlike feel. Like Orton, Bennett gives the impression of using farce to free-associate about sex, the body, and the needs and greeds that consume us.

But do not be put off. *Corpus* is always more funny than pretentious or disorientating. Blethyn of her sad marriage: "My body lying there night after night in the wretched moonlight. Now I know how the Taj Mahal must feel." Bennett the troubled guru may lurk beneath the surface, but Bennett the wit is never more than a line or so away.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE



Earthy delights: (clockwise from top) Jim Broadbent, Sarah Woodward, Imelda Staunton, John Padden, Nicholas Woodeson and Brenda Blethyn in *Habeas Corpus*

# Not a knight to remember

The BOC Covent Garden Festival is reckoned to be a good thing, which makes it a pity that this year's programme includes this awful Broadway musical, the work of Alan Jay Lerner and Frederick Loewe, old partners

## Camelot Freemasons' Hall

who had evidently exhausted their creative gifts with *Gigi* and *My Fair Lady*, two and four years previously.

In the interval I was astonished to learn from older colleagues that at least two of its silly songs actually became hits way back in 1960 — *Camelot*, a soupy hymn to a paradise on English earth, and *C'est Moi*, Lancelot's account of his love affair with himself. The quality of songs that year must have been deplorable for Loewe's music to find any favour. The over-orchestrated score is sugar in staves.

The chief interest of the occasion lies in discovering how Frank Dunlop will stage the production in this freaky building, a colossal structure in wedding-cake stone at the bottom end of Drury Lane, severe on the outside and madly decorated indoors with ancient Egyptian and Israelite motifs.

The acting area spreads down the middle of the Grand Hall like a dragon's enormous



Square peg at a round table: Jason Donovan as Mordred hangs out with the boys at court

green tongue, with the orchestra tucked behind a symbolic forest at the far end, and fortunate in that they occupy a part of the hall where the acoustics pick up the notes with acceptable accuracy.

Unlike them, the actors are cruelly exposed to spots that are not so much dead as shuddering and which double the sounds while at the same time muffling them. Since there is an inordinate amount of talking between the numbers, vast tracts of plot and comment disappear without trace.

The boring character of Arthur, unconvincing promoter of a medieval United Nations, is played by Paul Nicholas with a toothy smile, sensible voice and a fondness for standing with arms akimbo. Robert Meadowmore plays Lancelot in spotless white Levi's to match his purity. Who notices that his saintly behaviour at court — expressly compared to the Son of God — is ludicrously at variance with his *C'est Moi* vainglory? Lerner and Loewe certainly do not care. All right, Meadowmore does sing *If I Would Ever*

Leave You with attractive variation of tone.

Jason Donovan's wicked charm as Mordred is appealing, though the milking devastates his *Seven Deadly Sins*. Samantha Janus plays the bimbo Guinevere, and in happy cins her voice would probably give much pleasure. How this empty show would sound in a better venue is anyone's guess. My guess is that it would still seem as archaic as *Chu Chin Chow*. And without the tunes.

JEREMY KINGSTON

# Kissin triumphs

## CONCERT

Philharmonia/  
Svetlanov  
Barbican

BRINGING together the Russian conductor Yevgeny Svetlanov and his compatriot Evgeny Kissin — already a phenomenon at 25 — was an inspiration. The result, an all-Russian programme given by the Philharmonia, provided an evening to remember.

Svetlanov's fine ear for tonal nuance, his sensitivity to the exquisite colours of the young Stravinsky's Rimsky-Influenced orchestration, produced a *Firebird* of rich yet subtly varied hues. But there was explosive power too, particularly in the *Capriccio* and in the gloriously exultant *Final Hymn*.

Kissin is Svetlanov's junior by more than four decades, but the older man seemed ready to defer at every opportunity. For stretches of Rachmaninov's Third Piano Concerto one was barely aware of the orchestra. Admittedly, Kissin's playing is mesmerizing. But he was also dominating the discourse to an unusual degree. This was neither the typical Romantic struggle for precedence, nor an encounter between equals.

On the contrary, Svetlanov moulded the orchestral contribution with discretion, reigning in the emotional outbursts. The full measure of his strategy was revealed when the climax was delivered with shattering force.

Kissin's performance of this taxing concerto was in a class of its own: were it committed to disc it would surely be accorded classic status. New

life was breathed into countless phrases with the innocent simplicity that conceals true art. But Kissin can also generate thunderous power, and his rock-solid security was awesome.

As an encore he offered another exceptional performance: the G Minor Prelude from Rachmaninov's Op 23. I have never heard it rattled off with such speed, such vehemence and such incredible technical control. Yet the lyricism of the central section blossomed wonderfully and the throwaway ending left us gasping with delight.

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# Perfect love match

## RECITAL

Prégardien/  
Banse/Gees  
Wigmore Hall

WHEN it comes to gender stereotyping in music, it takes a lot to beat Hugo Wolf's *Italienisches Liederbuch*. These miniatures of love's tiffs and torments match serenading and madonna worship with flirtation coy and demure, impatient anger with morose imprecation. But here, with two of Germany's most intelligent young singers, the game of musical consequences was constantly diverting.

The first half was entirely circumspect. Obvious eye contact was avoided as tenor Christoph Prégardien sang his first long crescendo of a serenade: clichéd coyness was totally and wonderfully absent from soprano Juliane Banse's little song about longing for an honourable old man of 14.

Then the evening became an intimate drama, lit, designed and stage-managed by the formidable imagination and fingers of pianist Michael

Gees. Prégardien hardened his eloquent tenor into the piano's querulous trills as he told of the lovesick Toni. Banse replied with a haughty flare in her mezzo-tinted soprano.

A new, bright rage lit her top register as she prayed for an abyss to engulf her lover's house, only to meet with the shadowy side of Prégardien's tenor in the lugubrious long vowels of *No longer can I sing*. They made peace, of course, and the evening ended happily ever after.

HILARY FINCH







## POP 3

Farewell, Jumping Jack Flash; hello Cole Porter: Charlie Watts chronicles his return to jazz



## POP 4

The rush of instant fame has hit Divine Comedy hard, but their music deserves success

## THE TIMES ARTS

## POP 5

Give her a little more time: Gabrielle strives for new sophistication at the Jazz Café



## TOMORROW

Raves, drugs and the music biz: is it time that the cosy complicity was ended?



In a sentimental mood: Watts returns to jazz, his first love, with a fine new album

Please allow me to introduce myself, I'm a man of wealth and taste... Although the opening line of *Sympathy for the Devil* was certainly not written with Charlie Watts in mind, at 55 he now matches the description to a T. As drummer of the Rolling Stones for the past 34 years he has accrued sufficient wealth to merit a ranking of No 347 in the most recent *Sunday Times* listing of Britain's 500 richest people. And anyone who doubts the man's impeccable taste need look no further than the fourth album by his own group, the Charlie Watts Quintet.

Named after the sensuous ballad by Ira Gershwin and Jerome Kern, *Long Ago & Far Away* is another superbly crafted collection of standards performed by the usual cast of jazz heavyweights — Brian Lemon (piano), Gerard Presencer (trumpet and flugelhorn), David Green (bass) and Peter King (alto saxophone) — accompanied throughout by the London Metropolitan Orchestra.

Having spent the best years of his life hammering out *Jumping Jack Flash* and *Brown Sugar* at colossal volume in some of the biggest venues known to man, the switch to music of such mellow sophistication might on the face of it seem out of character, a sort of Jekyll and Hyde process in reverse. And certainly the calibre of musicianship involved in interpreting jazz evergreens such as *Good Morning Heartache*, *In the Still of the Night* and *In a Sentimental Mood* is a far cry from the three-chord tricks for which the Stones are so admired.

"It's very daunting," Watts admits, looking anything but daunted, "because you know that anything these players were asked to do musically,

# Take me back to Birdland

David Sinclair meets Rolling Stone Charlie Watts in his other incarnation — as a jazzman

they could do, and a lot of things I might be asked to do, I know I couldn't. Technically, I'm very limited."

But far from being a dabbler, Watts insists that jazz was, and still is, his first musical love. "I was 14 when I bought my first Charlie Parker record. In those days it was a big deal to know who was on a record. If somebody couldn't recognise that it was, say, Joe Wilder playing trumpet without seeing the label, they'd had it. You didn't talk to the bloke, Kenny Clarke, Art Blakey, these are the great drummers and always will be."

"People tell me I'm part of rock'n'roll. But the tight jeans and the big stages, that's not my world at all. My world is the Blue Note club in Paris or Birdland in New York. That's where I would go to see someone play."

The only other person involved in Watts's band with a rock'n'roll background is singer Bernard Fowler, who made a name for himself as frontman of dub-rock pioneers Tackhead and as a backing vocalist with the Stones. This is his second full-length outing with the quintet and, as on his predecessor *Warm & Tender* (1993), Fowler's sensitive and ultrasensitive treatment of these songs is a revelation.

"He is such a wonderful talent," Watts enthuses. "You don't get the chance to hear a singer presented in this way too often, and he has such a poignant quality to his voice. Every time I hear [the song]

People tell me I'm part of rock'n'roll, but it's not my world at all

*Long Ago (And Far Away)* I cry. My mother died during the making of the record and it's a song that she used to sing."

Watts began mining this vein in 1991. That was when he first convened the quintet and recorded a mini-album, *From One Charlie*, to accompany the reissue of his book about Charlie Parker, *Ode to a*

*Highly Living Bird*, first published in 1964. A follow-up album, *A Tribute to Charlie Parker with Strings*, was released in 1992.

But none of those preceding albums could claim to be as timely as *Long Ago & Far Away*. With young club-goers grooving to the sounds of Frank Sinatra and Perry Como, and old stagers from Tony Bennett to Burt Bacharach back in town and playing to sold-out houses, the easy-listening revolution is apparently in full swing. Watts is stunned to discover that this kind of music is once again fashionable. "Is it? I always get the feeling I'm totally out of vogue."

He is predictably vague about the commercial viability of these records. "We all got paid for turning up at the studio — £1,000 each for the week or something — but whether it sells enough to cover all that, I don't know. That's one of the things I should have found out by now, I suppose."

He rarely listens to pop

music and never to the records he has made with the Stones, keeping his dial firmly tuned to Radio 3 when at home, even though he feels they play far too much opera ("I prefer ballet music myself").

But while Watts obviously couldn't care less about fashion, style is another matter. A fastidiously well-dressed and manicured man who has tailors in London (Tommy Nutter of Savile Row), Paris (Hermès) and New York, Watts is a connoisseur of style. From drummers ("Kenny Clarke was the coolest, most chic-looking player — the Fred Astaire of the kit") to cricketers ("Sachin Tendulkar and Brian Lara are the best-looking batsmen; David Gower was the last one we had"), Watts gauges his heroes as much by how stylishly they perform as by what they have achieved.

"My suits are one of my biggest pleasures. My father was a lorry driver for British Railways and he had a tailor in Lower Marsh Street in the East End. He used to take me sometimes to get bits there. I've still got suits that were made for me 25 years ago. If I have a big argument with my wife, she sometimes threatens to cut all the sleeves off. That's the ultimate threat."

Presumably he has not come to that yet, since Watts has been married to his wife, Shirley, for 31 years, an extraordinary achievement considering the nature of his employment. "She's never liked the world I work in. I don't think any intelligent woman would. But I couldn't have done it without her."

● *Long Ago & Far Away* is released by Virgin on Monday

Nervous Neil Hannon does not consider his part in the Divine Comedy a role for television

## God's plaything

There is a big, old-fashioned brass handle on the door — it overhangs the table, shoved up in the doorway, and speaks of a time when pubs could afford solid brass handles for their doors. Neil Hannon of the Divine Comedy is hanging onto this handle as if his life depended on it: face pale green, eyelids white, sick with nerves and shaking like a puppy that has just been dragged out of a well. In three hours he will be appearing on *TEI Friday*, playing his exquisite new single, *Something for the Weekend*.

Fame has suddenly and unexpectedly called for Hannon, and with it a swamp of nausea and bewilderment:

which is why he is in the pub now, drinking nervous glasses of water and trying to steady himself for the ordeal ahead. Hannon was not expecting the week to end up like this — a modest promotional canter around France was all that was planned, until Fate stepped in and ensured that, while over at a friend's house, *TEI Friday* presenter Chris Evans heard the delightfully sharp and poised *Weekend* and fell in love with it instantly — to the point of extending his *Radio 1 Breakfast Show* an extra four minutes in order to

play the single for a third time that morning. He is now dragging a reluctant Hannon before 2.4 million people.

"I wish he'd never heard it," Hannon shivers. "I haven't really slept much. I feel a bit... strange."

Hannon, quite literally the son of a preacher man, from Londonderry, was a "small, annoying" boy, and his "alone but not lonely" childhood is perfectly documented in *Songs of Love*. B-side of *Something for the Weekend*, Hannon casts a forgiving eye over the "pale, pubescent beasts who

roam through the streets" and whose games did not include him, because "my type hibernates in bedrooms above/Composing their songs of love". Accompanied by a harpichord and acoustic guitar, *Songs of Love* positively bursts with honey-sweet and beauty. Hannon is up there with Jarvis Cocker as a songwriter who can pen narrative that drips with wit, observation and humanity, marry it to music that sounds out of time, and sing it with a glitter-struck, Hollywood-sized voice.

Throughout the current *Casanova* album, Hannon takes on the persona of Scott Walker singing incredibly complicated, beautiful arrangements with lyrics written by Dorothy Parker. "Scott Walker's my hero," Hannon confirms. "We recorded some of the album in a studio he'd been in the week before — I asked the engineer which chair he'd sat in and then rushed over to that chair and squirmed around on it, trying to get pregnant. If I ever met him, I'd keel over and talk to his shoes."

All a far cry from the confidently indignant, outraged, orgasmic squal Hannon lets loose on *Through a Long and Sleepless Night*, in unison with what sounds like 4,000 trumpets taking part in a kinky suffocation game.



CAITLIN MORAN

An hour after Hannon has appeared, shaded and cool, on our television screens, he tucks into a congratulatory pint and regains his poise enough to explain the ethos behind the Divine Comedy. "All of humanity's basic perceptions are built on a big lie — the universe is infinite, but because nobody can imagine infinity, we lie and pretend that things are finite. And once you realise that we're pretending, you can pretend anything. And this is what I'm pretending my life is — the Divine Comedy."

● *Something for the Weekend* is out on June 17; the album, *Casanova*, is out now on Setanta



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## Dreaming in public

THE TIME comes for any pop performer when you must leave the shelter of the studio and prove yourself in concert. In short: shape up on stage, or be forever Bananarama.

Gabrielle's first single, *Dreams*, shot to the top of the charts in 1993, and helped the south London ingénue to take the Best Newcomer Brit Award the following year. During her first, dizzying bout of fame, Gabrielle and her eyepatch became familiar on television but she did not fully embrace live work.

Her extraordinary success this spring with *Give Me A Little More Time* has already recast her in quite credible colours. The lazy rhythms and deep banks of horns that decorate her warm vocals have won the song both popular and critical plaudits.

This more adult sound brings with it a more sophisticated image and a commitment to concerts that sees her guesting with M People at two major outdoor shows in the middle of the month. For this preview, she summoned a slick eight-piece band to hold

## LIVE GIG

Gabrielle  
Jazz Café, NW1

her hand during a challenging engagement at the Jazz Café. Opening with *Going Nowhere* and *Because of You*, two of the other hits from her debut album, she moved tentatively into songs from her new, self-titled second album such as *I Live in Hope* and *People May Come*, in which the tasteful performance was undermined by her inability to project herself beyond the first couple of rows.

*Dreams*, her encore, was by a distance the most confidently played offering. Her voice will never be sonorous, but it is soulful, apart from one moment on *Give Me A Little More Time* in which she missed a high note by a country mile. By the evening's end Gabrielle had done her reputation no harm at all.

PAUL SEXTON

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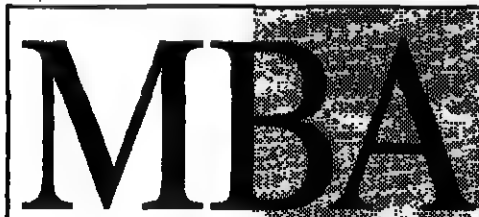
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## EDUCATION

## Degrees of superiority

Women students  
no longer achieve  
the same academic  
success as men, says  
Gerry McCrum

Professor Richard Lynn argued in *The Times* last month that female inferiority at university is easily explained by the results of IQ tests. He finds males have bigger brains than females and this leads to a slightly superior average male IQ score. This small difference in IQ doubles the number of males, relative to females, in the IQ range above 130. This is the IQ range normally needed to obtain a first-class degree, so women are predicted to obtain fewer firsts than men.

Professor Lynn confirms this to be so in Ireland today. Other evidence he quotes comes from studies of British universities in general and Oxford and Cambridge in particular. Where Oxford is concerned, it has to be said that we live at a low point in female academic performance. In some subjects, for instance in medicine and law at Cambridge, women match the men. But in general, Professor Lynn is correct: males clearly outperform females.

For example, if for a male student the probability of a first in English is 100, then for a female it is 57 at Oxford, 50 at Cambridge and 48 at the rest of the English and Welsh universities taken together. This is the position today (an average from the years 1989 to 1993).

However, 25 years ago things were different. Then in English at Oxford and Cambridge, but not at the other universities, women matched the men. Averaged over the five years 1972 to 1976, the probabilities for females were 96 at Oxford, 108 at Cambridge and 47 at other universities (with the male probability at 100).

It may be argued that Oxford from 1972 to 76 over-selected women, so female undergraduates then had a superior A-level score to male undergraduates. This generated a cluster of female high achievers at Oxford, whereas in the nation as a whole female performance in English was measured fairly by the modest value of 47 obtained at other universities.

That this is not so is shown in Figure 1 which demonstrates the probability of a first-class degree in English for female candidates, compared to male, considering only men and women with A-level scores of AAA or AAB. For this high-achieving group at A-level, homogeneous apart from gender, the 1972-76 first-class probabilities are 94 for women at Oxford, 111 at Cambridge and 54 at other universities. So the women essentially matched the men at Oxford but not elsewhere.

There are other ways of skimming off the top male and female



Inequality of the sexes: exam results of Oxbridge students show a strong probability that few women will get a first-class degree

students reading English, in order to compare like with like. For example, by comparing the probability of a first for males and females with three As at A level. The result is the same. The Class 1 performances in English at Oxford and Cambridge of males and females were essentially equal in 1972-76, but not in 1989-93.

In a small number of subjects over the years there was little change in performance. In medicine and law at Cambridge women then did as well as the men, and continue to do so now. In mathematics, taking Oxford and Cambridge results together, Figure 2, women performed less well than men in 1972-76 and continue to perform less well now, scoring a Class 1 probability, year by year, between

40 and 60. In general, however, for most subjects there was a drop in female achievement, illustrated for English and modern languages in Figure 2. History has today a female Class 1 probability close to 40 — the lowest for an important subject at Oxbridge. The collapse in female performance occurred in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

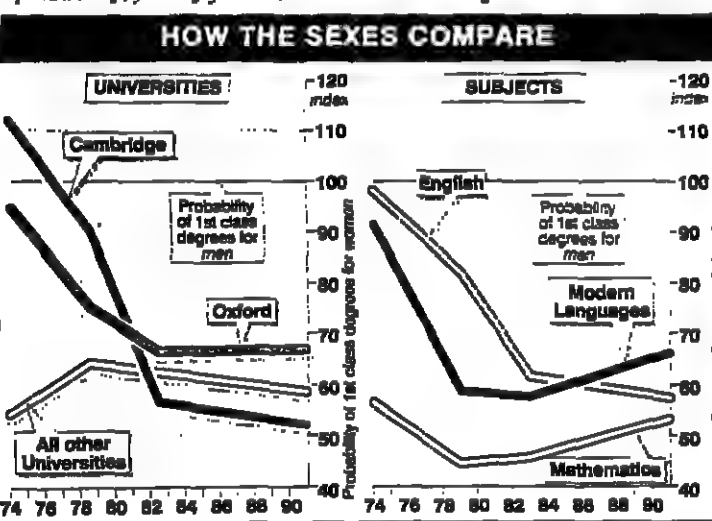
In looking to explain these results, it is natural to consider the great Oxbridge social innovation of the 1970s — gender mixing of the colleges. This revolution commenced slowly, first at Cambridge with three men's colleges admitting women in 1972, followed by a further two colleges four years later. At Oxford in 1974, five men's colleges admitted women,

which has reduced female single-sex colleges to an endangered species. Only one remains at Oxford and two at Cambridge. I doubt that Professor Lynn will find satisfaction in the relative performance at university of males and females in the aggregate. It may be, however, that detailed examination of female achievement in terms of verbal and non-verbal reasoning and spatial abilities will be fruitful. Why, for example, do women do so well in law, medicine and chemistry but not in history, mathematics and physics? It is unlikely that a single nonlinear classification, such as IQ, can scale abilities at the highest level in such different subjects.

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Dr McCrum is Emeritus Fellow of Hertford College, Oxford



Flashback: when Tony Blair and Benazir Bhutto were at Oxford in the early 1970s, female students were academically stronger

## Don't weep for a lost golden age

University life has changed for the better, says Dan Cohn-Sherbok

Recently we had dinner with a friend who had just been appointed to a chair in philosophy at a northern university which has an excellent reputation. "What's it like?" I asked, expecting to hear a glowing report. "It's horrible," she said. "I hate it." "But you've only been there two terms," I replied. "What's gone wrong?"

For nearly an hour she listed a catalogue of complaints. Her colleagues were unfriendly; everybody was under pressure to write scholarly articles; her teaching load was enormous; she was expected to sit on several committees; she had been asked to be chairman of her department and the whole thing was a terrible strain. The university was so anxious to maintain its status as a top-flight institution that everyone was overworked, overworked and depressed.

Similar grumbles are widespread throughout the university system: repeatedly academics lament the changed working conditions of the 1990s and long for a return to the old days. Wistfully they look back to what they perceive as a halcyon age in which they were expected to publish only two or three books within a lifetime. Otherwise they spent a few hours a week teaching small groups of highly motivated students and passed the rest of their time in scholarly reading and gentle repartee with their colleagues.

This, of course, is an exaggerated picture. Even in the heady days of the 1960s things were not quite so pleasant. Nonetheless, there is no doubt university life has changed. The Government has cracked the whip. Many more students are now to be educated. An institution is to be judged not only on the quality, but also (horror!) on the quantity of its research. Resources are scarcer; people are busier.

For those of us who were students in the 1960s, the experience was not always quite as idyllic as the dons remember. All too often academic supervision was minimal. Lectures were merely a rereading of notes made 20 years previously. Seminars were cancelled for less than adequate reasons. There was little sense of intellectual excitement and female students were sometimes subject to prejudice and sexual harassment. The teachers were remote and their position in the university hierarchy seemed to depend more on

whom they knew than on their excellence in either pedagogy or scholarship. We were also aware that far too few of our contemporaries were being educated.

Today we have a new system and many of the abuses have been corrected. Lecturers have to ask their students at the end of the course to fill in an appraisal form. There is now the mechanism for students to point out that they have been neglected or that their teachers have made no attempt to prepare their courses. Such charges are taken seriously. Classes may be bigger now than in the past, but they are also better.

Another major advance has been the recognition that research must be judged in an international context. This shift in perception is reflected in the criteria used to determine the quality of individual departments. In order to attain the highest rating, evidence of international standing must be illustrated. Because it is important for funding that a department receive a good rating, promotion within the system is less likely now to be on the basis of personal favouritism.

In addition, universities have introduced procedures for ascertaining whether students have been sexually or emotionally harassed. It is now universally recognised that students have rights, that they should not be exploited.

The elimination of divide between universities and polytechnics has also added a healthy rivalry between institutions. Former polytechnics are now in fierce competition with the former universities for students as well as for government support.

On the threshold of the 21st century, then, British academic life is undergoing a revolution which has the capacity to strengthen the intellectual and cultural life of the nation. Such change can be perceived as a threat to the values of the past — certainly my friend sees it so. However, she fails to recognise the weaknesses of the previous system. The structures are now in place for all the universities to improve dramatically. It will be a tragedy if they forego this chance just because of a middle-aged nostalgia for a flawed golden age.

The author teaches Jewish theology at the University of Kent. He is a visiting professor at the universities of Middlesex and Wales, Lampeter.

Hugh Thompson on the choice between college and sixth form and John O'Leary on funding

## Head to head in a battle to lure the 16-year-olds

At 16, pupils and their parents are now faced with a bewildering choice: to stay on at school (if they can), go to a further education or sixth-form college, or move to a smaller or more academically rigorous school. Should they switch because of their choice of A levels, or would vocational courses be more useful?

Many parents feel that if they are going to spend limited resources on their children's education, it is at the A-level stage, which launches them into university, that the money is best spent. Others feel that privately-educated but under-achieving teenagers are better served at increasingly competitive sixth-form colleges.

Several private schools are now providing a vocational alternative to A level in the sixth form and there are also private sixth-form colleges. The worst thing is to come to A-level results time and realise that you have wasted time either doing the wrong subjects or A levels at all.

Rosemary Newton-Davis, an educational psychologist, says: "There is a lot to be said for moving at 16. For the less academically gifted to move to a college with a wider range of subjects and qualifications can be a lifesaver."

Victoria Fanger moved the short distance from Putney High School to Godolphin and Latymer School, in west London, last September, swapping one leading independent school for another. She says: "I needed a change. I wanted a fresh start and a chance to meet new people. After five years, you know the teachers and they know you: there isn't any challenge."

She adds: "I didn't want to go to a sixth-form college. I wouldn't have been able to work in a more relaxed atmosphere. The first weeks were strange, but you expect that. Everyone has been very friendly. It was definitely the right thing to do."

One of the reasons why girls seem to feature more than boys in the 16-plus swings and roundabouts is that they are



Students at Hills Road Sixth Form College, Cambridge

more mature. They are also twice as likely to run away from home.

One of the most successful sixth-form colleges in the South-East of England is Godolphin College, which recruits from state schools and the private sector. Lynn Le Versha, the Vice-Principal, says: "Many parents looking at our A-level results realise their children can do better without paying thousands of pounds in fees. We offer a wider range of subjects at A level — psychology and law, for example. What we have now in education is a marketplace where the customer is king, and at 16 the customer is spoilt for choice."

It may be that this choice is the natural extension of teenage buying power, a more competitive educational system and parents anxious to do

the right thing in an increasingly hostile world. The colleges insist that those who succumb to an alternative lifestyle have simply done so sooner rather than later. The drop-out rate at university suggests that far too many students are not prepared for higher education.

The increasing lack of inhibition about moving at 16 further steps up the institutional battle for students. The bigger the sixth form, the more viable and financially efficient it becomes, whereas schools which lose out in the 16-plus marketplace find that there is a vicious circle when numbers fall below a critical point.

The sixth form and the achievements of older pupils are a school's flagship, and one that is watched increasingly closely by customers young and old.

## Election and vouchers could rock the boat

Parents may be approaching the high water mark of choice in state provision for the 16-19 age-group. The variety of qualifications may continue to grow, as Sir Ron Dearing's report is implemented, but the recent institutional free-for-all may not last.

Whichever party wins the next election, costs are likely to be squeezed at the expensive end of secondary education to do more for primary schools. Labour would be less ready than the current administration to sanction the establishment of new sixth forms, which are often small and uneconomic at first.

Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, is investigating payment by results, which should benefit high-quality provision of any size. Part of the funding for schools and colleges would be linked to their pass rates at A level or in vocational qualifications. Further education colleges already get about 10 per cent of their funding this way, and schools' generally better results should mean that they do well under the new system.

A new Conservative government might approach the issue from the opposite direction, introducing vouchers whose value would be pitched nearer the costs of further education colleges than schools. Although a radical scheme might extend to the independent sector, opening up much greater choice for parents willing to "top up" the

voucher, state school provision might still be reduced.

A new study by the National Foundation for Educational Research underlines the rapid changes that have been taking place in school sixth forms. With the increased numbers staying on beyond the age of 16, new courses have been developed to cater for a wider ability range and many are spending three years in the sixth form.

Researchers looked in detail at 30 schools of varying character, from a grammar school under pressure to narrow its intake to improve its position in the examination league tables, to a secondary modern which is trying to develop a vocational sixth form to reverse a decline in enrolments.

Most of the students surveyed had stayed in the same school after taking GCSE, although in many cases there was a wide range of options. Teachers complained of aggressive marketing by neighbouring colleges and cramming by selective schools with high academic reputations.

Although significant numbers were attracted by the greater freedom of college life, the more interesting relationship was between staying-on rates and the size of sixth forms. Where the sixth form had fewer than 75 pupils, teenagers were markedly less likely to remain in education of any kind.

Sixth Form Options: £9 from NFER, The Mere, Upton Park, Slough, Berkshire SL1 2DQ.

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# Volunteer your way into work

Working in the voluntary sector can be personally satisfying — and a good career move, says Jennai Cox

To hear this week that nearly three quarters of young people leaving the Prince's Trust scheme find a job or training within three months has come as no surprise to those working in the voluntary sector.

A recent survey of 500 human resource directors at leading companies suggests that a CV featuring voluntary work makes a job applicant more desirable and is thought the best way of acquiring skills to bridge the gap from education to work.

Published weeks after business leaders described young people as unemployable, *The Value of Volunteering* shows they develop self-confidence and teamwork through being volunteers and are thought to have more initiative, enhanced negotiation skills and to be better at managing their time than those who engage in student politics or have travelled.

Community Service Volunteers (CSV), which commissioned the research and arranges placements for 3,000 young people each year, said being thrown in at the deep end forced them to develop the instincts and skills they would use in the workplace. Elizabeth Hoodless, CSV's executive director, says it is becoming important to employers no longer impressed by paper qualifications alone.

"Voluntary work equips young people with attitudes and skills," she says. One accountancy firm told her that if someone could teach mathematics in an inner city, they could cope with any of their audit clients.

Employers have little difficulty finding candidates who pass their benchmark requirements, according to Roly Cockman, chief executive of the Association of Graduate

Recruiters. What they look for is someone who stands out.

He adds: "Initiative, teamwork, the ability to communicate effectively, all acquired doing voluntary work, are among recruiters' main criteria. Employers ask: 'What else has this person got to offer? Has what they have done demanded much of them?'"

David Blake of the Woolwich Building Society, which took part in the survey, believes that large companies that increasingly donate money and encourage employees to work for voluntary bodies look more positively on people who have already shown this tendency.

**'Young people do not value it; it's not paid'**

"Too many people have concentrated on their academic work," he says. Employers also consider a gap year to have been thrown away if not convinced it has been constructive. "Voluntary work shows a person has got in-hand experience of the world."

The Royal Mail encourages employees to get involved in local voluntary projects as a way of persuading them to develop new skills. Giles Holman, head of Community Action, says: "The recruiting qualities we seek are often exhibited in voluntary work. There is a trend towards looking at what people have done on a voluntary basis."

Ian du Pré, national recruitment partner for Coopers & Lybrand, which takes on 600 graduates every year, says seeing demanding projects through also makes people more positive about new challenges. "Volunteering is a very powerful learning process," he says.

Anna Driscoll, 21, who has done voluntary work since she was 12, says it taught her to be open-minded and not to pre-



Volunteering should be seen as more than helping others: there can be other benefits

judge people. "It is not glamorous — but it is not dull," she says. "You get so much out of it." Ms Driscoll finds that friends who have done voluntary work are easier to work with and better organisers.

Working with children with behavioural and learning difficulties taught Stephen Shields, 22, about responsi-

bility. He says: "It also shows employers there is something else to me, that I have the motivation to do something instead of just talking about it."

Ruth Thomas believes her experience with voluntary projects gave her the edge in an interview to get on to a competitive university course, a technique she can use later

in job interviews. She says: "Volunteering made me realise you can do anything and do it well. I am more confident and ambitious."

Industry in Education commissioned the *Towards Employability* survey, which found that young people lacked respect, integrity, motivation and self-confidence. IIE

recommended volunteering as a way of developing career support. Dr Dick Whitcut, its director, says that the change from school or college in having to cope with situations for which there are no fixed solutions has a hugely developmental effect. "But," he says, "people still view volunteering as do-goody and irrelevant. The message is hard and cold: volunteering is worth doing not merely because of the good you do, but also for the good it does you."

Dr Whitcut advocates integrating voluntary work with the education process, but neither the Government's Making a Difference campaign nor the Liberal Democrats' Citizens' Service includes the concept. Labour is looking at ways for further education qualification credits to be awarded for voluntary service and a document laying out its plans is expected later this year.

All three parties support the Prince's Trust scheme, but organisations representing the voluntary sector are wary of political ideas. Elizabeth Murray of the National Association of Voluntary Bureaux, says: "Volunteering must be at the volition of young people. We need a climate of desire without compulsion."

Andrea Kelmanson, the Volunteer Centre's director, says that young people respond differently to voluntary work and still have difficulty with the connotations it carries.

"They have grown up with the concept of individualism and the idea that there is no such thing as society," she says. "Young people put no value on volunteering because it's not paid and think they should just get on with their career."

Instead, Ms Kelmanson says, volunteering should be part of career progression.

"Of course, employers will consider communication and leadership skills derived from voluntary work important when recruiting young managers. But they should apply that at all levels," she says. "The message that not everything comes down to money still has a long way to go."

## Inspectors on report

Carol Fitz-Gibbon discusses the case for monitoring monitors

Since an organisation to inspect inspectors did not exist, it was necessary to invent one. Necessary for the good of education, for if the inspection regime is inadequate and diverts school energies in unproductive ways, unreliably undermines public confidence and tends to an unlikely level of wisdom, then education will suffer.

Before teams were allowed to inspect schools and publish the results, it would surely have been proper to check that the methods employed were adequate. Are the judgments reliable? For example, would different inspectors independently inspecting the same school come to the same conclusions?

If judgments are not consistent, then an inspection is a game of Russian roulette for the school. The school faces arbitrary judgments that it cannot test in a court of law. However, even if it could be shown that all inspectors would arrive at similar judgments, we would still need to ask whether this agreement was based on common prejudice, or whether it genuinely measured what it claimed to measure: the effectiveness of the school. The critical question is how valid are the conclusions.

Having suffered for years from inspectors who wanted primary pupils to undertake group work, and who would criticise teachers feeling it worked, there is a new fashion that reverses the old. Little wonder, then, that teachers find inspections stressful in the extreme.

That is not to deny the right of the public to demand accountability for schools. While the Government was commissioning reports, thousands of schools joined universities and

LEAs to create monitoring projects. Using their funds, they analysed information on examination performance (what has come to be called Value Added) as well as on other factors, such as attitudes, attendance and safety.

The Department for Education and Employment, 12 years after the start of the A-Level Information System (ALIS), has adopted most of its methodology. This represents an example of a phenomenon that has been observed in business and industry: an improvement of the system can be best designed by those who do the work.

**Teachers find inspection stressful in the extreme**

Inspection has an important role to play since nothing can substitute for the direct observation of the way a school functions. However, the strengths and weaknesses of inspection must be confronted.

The conference at New College, Oxford, on June 19, 20 and 21, will start off with evidence from schools, teachers, parents, governors, and all who wish to provide information about how the inspection system is working. The evidence will be taken in confidence, with no press allowed, anonymously if preferred. Written evidence is encouraged.

On the second day this evidence will be summarised and then considered by a panel of independent, disinterested assessors from different backgrounds, including academia and business. On the third day a working group will consider the way forward, including the extension of a pilot system for monitoring inspections.

For further details, apply to the Conference Secretary, 9 Quatre Bras, Henham, Northumberland NE46 3JY 01434 60447. Written evidence should be submitted by Monday, if possible.

## EDUCATION

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## Law Report June 7 1996 Court of Appeal

## Council provision of accommodation need not be permanent

**Regina v Wandsworth London Borough Council and Another, Ex parte Wingrove.**

**Regina v Same, Ex parte Mansoor.**

Before Sir Thomas Bingham, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Evans and Lord Justice Ward (Judgment May 21).

The expression "accommodation" in section 65(2) of the Housing Act 1985 did not bear a concept of permanence.

Where, therefore, a local housing authority accepted that an applicant was unintentionally homeless and in priority need, it could discharge its duty under section 65(2) of the 1985 Act of securing that accommodation became available for his occupation when it offered him suitable premises on an assured shorthold tenancy with a reasonable period of renewal thereafter.

The Court of Appeal so held, dismissing appeals by the applicants, Mr Alan Wingrove and Mr Mansoor, from Sir Louis Blom-Cooper, QC, who, sitting as a deputy judge of the Queen's Bench Division, had dismissed their applications for judicial review of decisions of Wandsworth London Borough Council to offer accommodation in the private sector on an assured shorthold tenancy of 12 months to Mr Wingrove and of 18 months to Mr Mansoor, each with a reasonable prospect of renewal thereafter.

Each applicant had challenged the local authority's decision on the ground that the assured shorthold tenancies offered lacked the degree of permanence or the quality of indefinite duration required by section 65(2).

Mr David Watkinson for Mr Mansoor; Mr Robert Latham for Mr Wingrove; Miss Alice Robinson for the Secretary of State for the Environment; Mr Patrick Ground, QC and Mr Geoffrey Stephenson for the local authority.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS referred to the statutory scheme provided by the Housing (Homeless Persons) Act 1977 and Part III of the Housing Act 1985 and, in particular, to the interim, temporary and full duties in sections 63, 65(3) and 65(2) respectively, which arose in various situations.

In *R v Brent London Borough Council, Ex parte Awaia* (The Times July 7, 1995; [1995] 1 AC 39), on which the local authority and the secretary of state had relied, Lord Hoffmann, in a speech which had commanded the assent of all the other judges, had made a series of rulings which his Lordship summarised:

1 There was no reference to "settled" accommodation in the 1985 Act.

2 It was highly improbable that, having rejected any implication as to physical suitability, the House would have accepted the implication of a requirement that the accommodation had in some sense to be settled: see *R v Hillingdon*

LBC, *Ex parte Puhlhofer* ([1986] AC 484).

3 A local authority was entitled to regard a person as having accommodation, and therefore not as homeless, if he had accommodation which, having regard to section 58(2)(b) of the 1985 Act, as amended by section 14 of the Housing and Planning Act 1986, the authority could reasonably consider that it would be reasonable for him to continue to occupy.

4 The submission that "accommodation" in sections 58 and 60 was to be construed as meaning "a settled home" was rejected, there being no warrant in the language of the statute or the decision of *Ex parte Puhlhofer* for implying such a concept.

5 "Accommodation" in sections 58(1) and 60(1) of the 1985 Act meant a place which could fairly be described as accommodation and which it would be reasonable for the person in question to continue to occupy, there being no additional requirement that the accommodation should be settled or permanent.

6 The same was true of accommodation which a local authority was under a duty to make available to an unintentionally homeless person under section 65(2).

7 That conclusion was reached in full recognition of the fact that the courts and the Department of the Environment had for some years taken a different view.

occupation; such accommodation had to be suitable, but that did not import any requirement of permanence.

8 Suitability was primarily a matter of space and arrangement, but there was no reason why temporary accommodation should of itself be unsuitable. If the tenure was so precarious that the person was likely to have to leave within 28 days without any alternative accommodation being available, then he remained threatened with homelessness and the local authority had not discharged its duty.

9 Otherwise the tenure which the accommodation was provided was a matter for the local authority to decide; it was not for the courts to lay down requirements as to security of tenure.

10 If a person who had been provided with accommodation under section 65(2) was once again made homeless or threatened with homelessness he might apply again and the local authority would be required once again to make inquiries under section 62(1).

11 It was found to be untenable to limit to that contained in section 65(3); if he was no longer in priority need, it would be limited to that in section 65(4).

His Lordship said that if, as the House of Lords had held in *Ex parte Awaia*, the local authority had to make available in discharge of its full duty under section 65(2) did not have to be settled or permanent, the only requirement being that the applicant's tenure had not to be

so precarious as to expose him to the likelihood of having to leave within 28 days without any alternative accommodation being available, it had to follow that the offers made to the present applicants were in law capable of amounting to adequate offers under the section.

He rejected the applicants' submission that the passages in *Ex parte Awaia* on which reliance had been placed were obiter and inconsistent with rulings in other cases, with other legislation, with the exposition of the law in successive editions of *Homelessness: Code of Guidance for Local Authorities* published pursuant to the 1977 and 1985 Acts and with clear and authoritative statements made in Parliament.

The issue in *Ex parte Awaia* was whether the applicant was intentionally homeless. That ultimately depended on the meaning of "accommodation" in sections 58(1) and 60(1), which had provided the immediate answer to the problem in that case.

The House could have stopped there. But the expression "accommodation" was also used in sections 63, 65(3) and 65(2). Any construction of "accommodation" in sections 58(1) and 60(1) which was not also applicable in those other sections would be prima facie unacceptable, unless there was clear reason to suppose that the draftsman used, or had to have used, the same expression to mean different things in different places.

Thus it was part of the ratio of the decision that "accommodation" did not, wherever used, bear the meaning "settled" or "permanent". His Lordship would question whether any part of Lord Hoffmann's speech was unnecessary to the decision.

If, however, that conclusion was wrong, the decision was high persuasive authority and was correct in principle.

The expression "accommodation" was consistently used without qualification, subject to such indications of duration as were given in defining the interim and the temporary duty.

The concept of permanence was quite inappropriate in a field such as the present. As for the argument that accommodation secured under section 65(2) was to be of indefinite duration, that expression, for which there was no statutory warrant, was neither clear nor helpful. It could, in any event, be said that the present offers were of indefinite duration.

His Lordship said that if the House had decided *Ex parte Awaia* in ignorance of relevant decisions either of its own or of inferior courts, that would not entitle the Court of Appeal to disregard whatever principle it had laid down: see *Broome v Cassell and Co Ltd* ([1972] AC 1037).

Hoffmann had expressly recognised that his construction of "accommodation" differed from that previously adopted by the courts.

His Lordship was not persuaded that any relevant authority had been overlooked. He regarded *Ex parte Awaia* as good, or at least highly persuasive authority.

Other legislation.

Considering other provisions to which the applicants had referred, his Lordship said that no useful analogy could be drawn with section 39 of the Land Compensation Act 1973.

There was nothing in section 4 of the Asylum and Immigration Appeals Act 1993 which conflicted with the construction in *Ex parte Awaia*, nor on that construction was the statutory purpose of section 4 frustrated.

Nor did the Housing Bill 1996, currently before Parliament, and in particular clause 151, help in the construction of the 1977 and 1985 Acts.

Codes of Guidance.

Lord Hoffmann expressly accepted that his construction differed from that to be found in successive editions of the codes of guidance issued by the Secretary of State for the Environment.

That was not surprising since the codes very properly reflected the current rulings of the courts, from which Lord Hoffmann was deliberately departing.

The codes could amount at best to persuasive authority on the

construction of the Acts; to the extent that the guidance, they contained had now been criticised by the House of Lords, they ceased to be persuasive.

Parliamentary statements.

In reliance on *Pepper v Hart* ([1993] AC 593) reference had been made to statements made during debate on the Housing and Planning Bill 1986 and the Asylum and Immigration Appeals Bill 1993.

To be of value as an aid to construction such statements had to be directed to the intended meaning of the provisions which the court was being asked to construe. None was. His Lordship doubted whether they were admissible. In any event they were unhelpful.

In the light of *Ex parte Awaia* it was clear that the section 65(2) duty required the offer of an assured shorthold tenancy of suitable premises.

Since the present attack was a legal not a merits challenge to quash the local authority's decision as to the construction of the section 65(2) duty, his Lordship would dismiss the appeals.

Lord Justice Evans and Lord Justice Ward delivered concurring judgments.

Solicitors: Ms Gabrielle O'Connor, Wandsworth; Ms Gabrielle O'Connor, Wandsworth; Treasury Solicitor; Mr Martin Walker, Wandsworth.

## Pregnancy dismissal was unlawful

**O'Neill v Governors of St Thomas More Roman Catholic Voluntary Aided Upper School.**

Before Mr Justice Mummery, Mrs P. Turner and Mrs R. A. Vickers (Judgment May 24).

Governors of a Roman Catholic school discriminated against a teacher of religious education on the ground of her sex when they constructively dismissed her after she had become pregnant in a relationship with a Roman Catholic priest and the relationship had become public knowledge.

The distinction drawn by the industrial tribunal which had found against the applicant, between pregnancy per se and pregnancy in the circumstances of the case was legally erroneous. Pregnancy always had surrounding circumstances and the critical question was whether on an objective consideration of all the surrounding circumstances the dismissal was on the ground of pregnancy.

The Employment Appeal Tribunal so held when allowing an appeal by the applicant, Mrs O'Neill, from the decision of a Bedford industrial tribunal in October 1994 of her complaint of unlawful discrimination against the governors of the school.

Mr Jeremy McMullen, QC and Mrs Helen Gower for Mrs O'Neill; Mr John Bowers for the governors.

MR JUSTICE MUMMERY said that the applicant was a teacher of religious education and personal relationships at the school. The governors were the applicant's employers.

In November 1991 the headmaster was told that the applicant was pregnant. At the time she was absent from the school through illness.

By the spring of 1992 the headmaster knew that it was as a

result of a relationship with a Roman Catholic priest who made regular visits to the school to give religious advice and guidance to pupils and teachers.

In May 1992 the governors took the decision to dismiss the applicant. They offered her the chance of returning to the school after her confinement for a term and then resigning.

The applicant did not agree to resigning. In July the school stopped paying her salary and in August the governors issued her with a notice of dismissal. The dismissal was on the ground of pregnancy.

In subsequent industrial tribunal proceedings the applicant's claim of unfair constructive dismissal was accepted by the governors. The tribunal dismissed the claim of sex discrimination.

It found that an important motive for the dismissal was not the applicant's pregnancy per se but the fact that the pregnancy was by a Roman Catholic priest and that as a result the school saw her position as a teacher of religious education and personal relationships as being untenable.

There was a distinction between pregnancy and the pregnancy of a religious education teacher by a Roman Catholic priest where that relationship was in the public domain and it was that that was the dominant motive for the dismissal.

Since the industrial tribunal's decision in October 1994 *Webb v Emo Air Cargo (UK) Ltd* [1995] 1 CR 1030 had been decided by the House of Lords.

The applicant's claim was based on section 1 of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 which provided that a person discriminated against a person on the ground of her sex if he treated her less favourably than he would treat a man. Section 6(2) made it unlawful in the case of dismissal. Section 5(3) provided that a comparison of the cases of persons of different sex must be

such that the relevant circumstances in the one case was the same or not materially different from the other.

Those provisions contained two elements relevant to the resolution of the case: the comparison element in the requirement of less favourable treatment than a man in circumstances which were the same or not materially different and the causal element in the requirement that such less favourable treatment must be on the ground of sex.

The consequence of *Webb* was that the applicant's pregnancy was a circumstance relevant to her case, although it was not a circumstance which would be present in the case of a hypothetical man.

A dismissal on the ground of pregnancy was a dismissal on the ground of sex, not by having regard to subjective motives of the alleged discriminator.

The concept of pregnancy per se was misleading. The critical question was whether on an objective consideration of all the surrounding circumstances the dismissal or other treatment complained of by the applicant was on the ground of pregnancy.

The factors in the present case relied on as the dominant motive were all actually relevant to the fact that the applicant was pregnant. It was not possible to say that the ground for the applicant's dismissal was anything other than her pregnancy.

The appeal was only concerned with the question of liability. The case would be remitted to the industrial tribunal to deal with remedies. It would be for the tribunal to decide having regard to all the circumstances whether it was just and equitable to award to the applicant the remedies specified in section 65 of the Act. The appeal would be allowed.

Solicitors: Moriarty & Co, Sutton Coldfield; Mr N. Bennett, Bedford.

## Leave to start proceedings out of time

**Secretary of State for Trade and Industry v Davies and Others.**

Before Lord Justice Nield, Lord Justice Hobhouse and Lord Justice Millett (Judgment May 24).

The inadequacy of the reasons for the delay by the Department of Trade and Industry in bringing disqualification proceedings against a company director under section 6 of the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986 was merely one of the considerations which had to be taken into account by a court when deciding whether to give leave for the disqualification proceedings to be commenced out of time.

The Court of Appeal so stated in dismissing an appeal by a company director, Vernon Davies, from the dismissal by Mr Justice Carnwath on May 2, 1995 of his appeal from an order of the registrar granting the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry an extension of time for the service of evidence in support of his original summons issued under section 6 of the 1986 Act.

Section 6 of the 1986 Act required the court to make a disqualification order against any person where, on an application made under the section, it was satisfied that he was or had been a director of a company which had become insolvent and that his conduct as a director of that company made him unfit to be concerned in the management of a company.

The originating summons was issued within the relevant period of two years so that leave of the court under section 7(2) of the 1986 Act was not required. But the secretary of state was unable to file detailed evidence in support of the application with the summons as required by the Insolvent Companies (Disqualification of Unfit Directors)

Proceedings Rules (SI 1987 No 2023).

Accordingly, at the same time as issuing the originating summons he made an application to the registrar for an extension of time for the service of evidence until a date long after the two-year period was due to expire.

The registrar granted the application and his decision was upheld by the judge who considered that the reasons given by the secretary of state for the delay were far from satisfactory, but that that consideration was far outweighed by other considerations towards the granting of leave.

Mr Michael Briggs, QC and Mr Paul Gilmore for Mr Davies; Mr A. W. H. Charles and Mr Richard Cillits for the secretary of state.

LORD JUSTICE MILLETT said that the question was whether, as the secretary of state submitted, the inadequacy of the reasons for the delay was merely one of the considerations which had to be taken into account when deciding whether to give leave for disqualification proceedings to be commenced out of time, or whether, as the director submitted, it was always necessary for a satisfactory explanation to be given for the delay, so that, if no such explanation was forthcoming, the secretary of state's application should be dismissed.

It was not helpful to describe section 7(2) as a limitation provision, or to regard the grant of leave as depriving the director of an accrued immunity from suit. The grant of leave was built into the two-year period.

Parliament clearly recognised that the two-year period might not be sufficient in every case. Even before the period expired, proceedings could not be brought unless the secretary of state had first determined that it was expedient in the public interest that they should

be brought after it had expired. The further requirement was imposed that the leave of the court should be obtained.

Once the two-year period had expired, delinquent directors were not immune from disqualification proceedings; they were immune from such proceedings brought without the leave of the court, but that was a very different thing.

An applicant for an extension of time must always explain why his application was necessary; that necessarily involved his giving an explanation of the delay. The secretary of state was, therefore, obliged to explain why he failed to issue the proceedings or serve the supporting evidence, as the case might be, in time. But once an explanation was given it became a matter to be considered together with all other relevant circumstances.

There was, in his Lordship's opinion, no justification for treating the adequacy of the explanation as a free-standing or threshold test which had to be satisfied before other considerations could be taken into account.

There was no support for such an approach in the authorities and it was incorrect in principle as well as unworkable in practice.

In the absence of a deliberate decision to disregard the rules or to overreach or take an unfair advantage of the other side, there was no such thing as a reason for delay which was good or bad in itself regardless of the circumstances, or which was inherently acceptable or unacceptable in all the circumstances.

There was only a reason for delay which might reasonably be accepted as sufficient to justify an extension of time in all the circumstances of the particular case.

There was no suggestion in the formulation of the appropriate test made by Lord Justice Scott in *In re Probe Data Systems Ltd* ([1992] BCLC 408) that it was expedient in the public interest that they should

and approved by Lord Justice Hoffmann in *Secretary of State for Trade and Industry v McTear* ([1994] 2 BCLC 284) that any of the factors which they enumerated was to be taken by itself as constituting a free-standing or threshold test which had to be satisfied before any extension of time could be granted.

The secretary of state must show a good reason for being granted the extension of time which he sought; but that was not the same as having to show a good reason for the delay. The secretary of state must explain the delay; the better the explanation, the easier it would be for him to obtain leave.

In the present case he gave an explanation. It was not good one. The judge thought that, despite that, leave should be given.

In his Lordship's opinion, he applied the correct test, and the view which he took was one to which he was entitled to come. If, contrary to his Lordship's opinion, his decision was vitiated by the error of law already referred to, it would make no difference, for that would entitle the court to substitute its decision, and his Lordship would arrive at the same conclusion as the judge did.

The case was brought in the public interest to disqualify a director alleged to be unfit. The charges, particularly of false accounting and trading while insolvent, were particularly serious and there was an obvious public interest in having them determined.

The delay was not minimal and the explanation for it was unsatisfactory, but it had not affected the timing of the hearing and had caused no prejudice to the director. His Lordship would emphasise that the discretion must be exercised in the light of all the circumstances and not merely because there was no prejudice to the director.

Solicitors: Peters & Peters; Treasury Solicitor.

## European Law Report

## Funeral grant condition unlawful

**O'Flynn v Adjudication Officer.**

Case C-237/94. Before D. A. O. Edward, President of the Fifth Chamber and Judges J.-P. Pousset, P. Jann, L. Sevón and M. Wathelet.

Advocate General C. O. Lenz (Opinion March 21) (Judgment May 23).

Community law precluded a provision of national law which made the grant of a payment to cover funeral expenses incurred by a migrant worker subject to the condition that burial or cremation was to take place within the territory of the member state.

The Fifth Chamber of the Court of Justice of the European Communities so held when giving its preliminary ruling under article 177 of the EC Treaty, pursuant to a reference dated June 28, 1994 by the Social Security Commissioner.

Under the Social Fund (Maternity and Funeral Expenses) (General) Regulations (SI 1987 No 481), a funeral payment, a means-tested social benefit, was payable to cover the costs incurred by the claimant or a member of his family on the occasion of a death in the family.

By regulation 7(1)(c), a funeral payment could only be made if the funeral, defined by regulation 3(1) as meaning a burial or cremation, took place within the United Kingdom.

After the death in the United Kingdom of the son of John O'Flynn, an Irish national resident in the United Kingdom as a former migrant worker, the burial took place in Ireland.

Mr O'Flynn's application for a funeral payment was refused on the ground that the burial had not taken place in the United Kingdom.

In his appeal against the refusal, Mr O'Flynn contended that regulation 7(1)(c) indirectly discriminated against migrant workers and was in breach of article 7(2) of Regulation (EEC) No 1612/68 of the Council of October 15, 1968 on freedom of movement for workers within the Community (OJ, English Special Edition 1968 III p478).

In the reference for a preliminary ruling the Social Security Commissioner asked, inter alia, whether it was compatible with the

Community principle of non-discrimination on the ground of nationality, for the purposes of article 7 of Regulation No 1612/68, for the United Kingdom to make the grant of a funeral payment subject to the condition that the funeral took place in the United Kingdom.

Article 7 of Regulation No 1612/68 provides: "(1) A worker who is a national of a member state of the Community and who is employed in another member state, be treated differently from national workers by reason of his nationality..."

"(2) He shall enjoy the same social and tax advantages as national workers..."

In its judgment, the Fifth Chamber of the Court of Justice considered that the condition that the funeral payment constituted a social payment within the meaning of article 7(2) of Regulation No 1612/68 and, in accordance with that provision, migrant workers must enjoy that advantage under the same conditions as national workers.

The United Kingdom said that the purpose of a funeral payment was to ensure, in the light of its civil responsibilities and in the interests of public health, the decent burial or cremation in the United Kingdom of all deceased persons, and that the allowance was granted in a non-discriminatory manner, being paid to migrant and national workers alike if the funeral took place within the United Kingdom, and refused to both classes of workers alike if it took place elsewhere.

It was, however, to be noted that under the 1987 Regulations the funeral payment covered not only the necessary costs of the burial or cremation of the body, but also all the costs incurred by the responsible family member in order to ensure that the deceased received a modest but decent funeral at a place near his home.

The costs of transporting the coffin to a place of burial or cremation distant from that home were not covered by the payment.

The court had consistently held that the equal treatment rule laid down in article 48 of the EC Treaty and, article 7 of Regulation No 1612/68 prohibited not only overt discrimination by reason of nationality, but also all covert forms of discrimination which, by the

application of other distinguishing criteria, led in fact to the same result.

Accordingly, by the case law, conditions imposed by national law were to be regarded as indirectly discriminatory if they affected essentially migrant workers, or the great majority of those affected were migrant workers, or the conditions were indirectly applicable, but could more easily be satisfied by national than by migrant workers, or there was a risk that they might operate to the particular detriment of migrant workers.

It was otherwise only if the provisions were justified by objective considerations independent of the nationality of the workers concerned and if they were proportionate to the legitimate aim pursued by the national law.

It followed from the case law that, unless objectively justified and proportionate to its aim, provision of national law must be regarded as indirectly discriminatory if it was intrinsically liable to affect migrant workers more than national ones and there was a consequent risk that it would place the former at a particular disadvantage.

It was not necessary, in that respect, to find that the provision did in practice affect a substantially higher proportion of migrant workers; it was sufficient that it was liable to have such an effect.

Further, the reasons why a migrant worker chose to make use of his freedom of movement within the Community were not to be taken into account in assessing whether a national provision was discriminatory.

The possibility of exercising so fundamental a freedom as the freedom of movement of persons could not be limited by such considerations, which were purely subjective.

A migrant worker would, in his capacity as responsible member, incur costs of the same type and of comparable amount to, those incurred by a national worker.

On the other hand, it was obvious that the migrant worker who, on the death of a member of the family, had to arrange for burial in another member state, in view of the links which the members of

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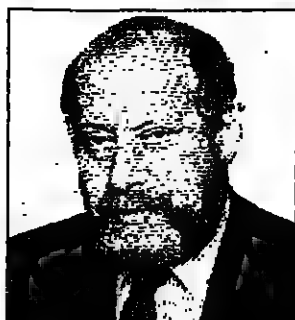
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# Golfers enjoy putting on the style

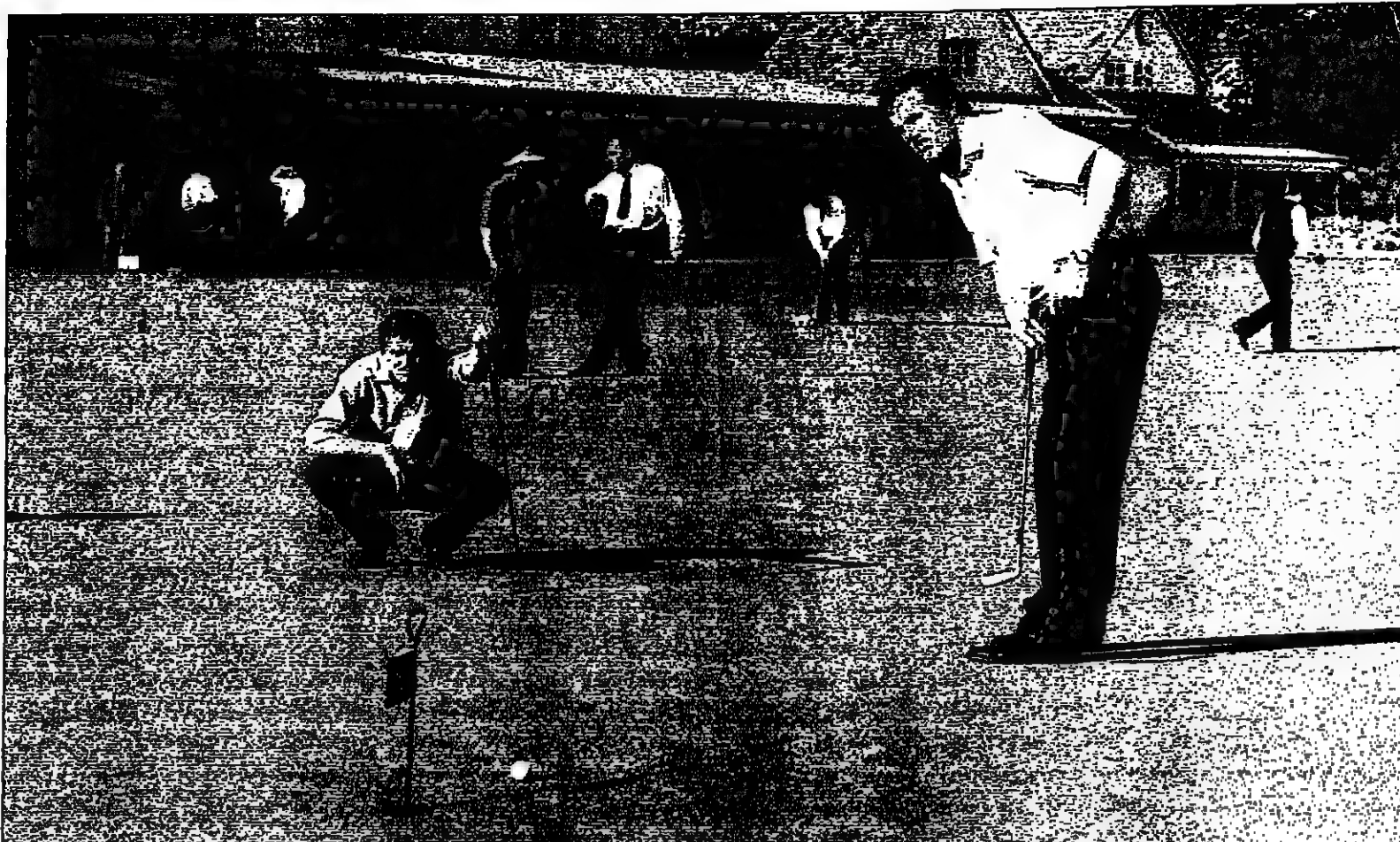
FREUD  
ON FRIDAY



Some 60 years ago, *The Times* golf correspondent reported on the first inter-club putting tournament, which was held at the Royal Wimbledon Club. "It was one of those notions," Bernard Darwin wrote, "for which it is not possible confidently to prophesy success, but, in fact, 21 clubs entered teams of four and Royal Wimbledon itself, has, in the language of another past-time, four boats on the river, bringing the total entry to 25."

The event became a putting as Henley to rowing, the Highland Games to caber tossing and remains the "thoroughly amusing competition to watch" of Darwin's day; moreover, one which a man with only medium eyesight can follow in its entirety, looking through a strategically-placed park bench. There shall come a time when we will have need of more such contests.

Royal Wimbledon's putting green is large and handsome, very fast and in beautiful order. All holes are par two; each — from the 6½ ft 16th, where less than immaculate direction and pace leaves the ball four feet down a slope beyond the pin, to the 15-yarder which requires a tap and a prayer — are professional holes, quite beyond the ability of the hackers and thumpers you encounter on the putting green at Southwold: better class of people, also; some wearing blazers, none encumbered by women, children and dogs (it goes without saying that, away from putting greens, women, children and dogs are among my favourite things).



Competitors in the putting tournament try to conquer the holes on the large and testing green at Royal Wimbledon golf club. Photograph: Alan Weller

This year, the tournament has excluded golf club teams and is contested by the 32 best old boys' societies: four leagues of eight, four per team, each player competing against his opposite number in each of seven matches. Thus, Uppinghamians' No 3 plays Old Etonians' No 3, etc.

Consequently, there is much searching for partners and a whole new meaning to the question "are you a one?"

Royal Wimbledon is not just an exceptionally beautiful country course with a remarkably voluminous putting green, but a club that exudes *bonhomie* and hospitality: a drink called Wimbledon Hill-billy contains grapefruit juice, sparkling lemonade and Angostura Bitters, comes in pint glasses dunking with ice, lubricates guests and is used in the initial stages of translating the sober merchant banker arriving after work into the inebriated putter-out who

staggers around when play is done.

Action begins at 5.30pm. I witness the local captain, a Gregorian (Downside), play Quick, of the Old Carthusians. Behind them, an Old Etonian chats to a Blundellian.

Quick puts with a pipe in his mouth; we all know how that impedes skill. Quick aces five of the first six holes.

Around me, men are asking whether there are any No 3s wanting a match; it appears that those No 3s not playing are drinking. I meet Frank Denny, who now lives in Crief. He ran this competition for 19 years and now comes down from Scotland annually to be chief organiser.

Word has it that Andrew Baker, of Blundell's, scored 14 points yesterday: seven games, seven wins (you get one point for your team for a draw). Things begin to warm up;

there are pairs at each hole. Body language, also who has the honour to putt off, shows the state of things. An Uppinghamian baronet mistakes me for my brother and we have a long cordial conversation remembering matches of yore.

A Millhillian, who lives near where I live in the

country, recommends a jobbing gardener, an Etonian who reads me on food urges me to frequent a restaurant in Braintree and a Haileyburian recounts that, when he moved to Wimbledon and changed doctors, he had to fill in a form: name, age, history of illnesses, etc. Against "sexual activity", he wrote "infe-

quent"; the doctor asked: "Is that one word or two?"

A charming old boy came to talk to me, ensured that my Hillbilly did not need replenishment, told me of the winning team not yet receiving a trophy but that the top player, he who amasses most points on finals day, next Friday, is to be awarded Burny Millard's putter. Millard is 98½ years old, in tremendous shape, a bit deaf, otherwise smart as a new penny. He will be there to make the award.

We watch a man miss a putt. "You can tell he's not a pro by the way he wears his clothes," my new friend said. "You never see Faldo with his shirt hanging out of his trousers. Did you know that, when Bobby Locke won the Open at Sandwich in 1949, he was wearing a tie? Last Open winner to wear a tie."

Men leave the bar looking for partners, then go back in where partners are more likely to be. At length, Old Carthusians win the day with 41 points. Blundellians and Gregorians are tied for second place on 30.

Penalties? No. There is a play-off and Blundellians go through.

A man who may have been a sometime sub-editor on a broadsheet approaches to announce that Hurstpierpoint GS has now changed its name; is called Hurst Juniors. I thank him.

Some players go and others stay and the barman tells me that the previous night Fettes were there until midnight. "They had a lot to talk about," he said, "but I managed to have everything looking good by opening time, though the carpet is still a bit wet."

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Boxhill Road,  
Tadworth, Surrey.

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## FORTHCOMING COMPANY GOLF DAYS

The companies listed have confirmed their status for the 1996 Challenge. The top four individual scorers on the day will form the company team eligible to qualify for a regional final.

MEES PIERSON

Date	Company name	Venue	Players
7 JUN	SOCIETE GENERALE	EAST SUSSEX NATIONAL	84
10 JUN	BARCLAYS LIFE ASSURANCE CO LTD	HAWKSTONE PARK HOTEL	26
10 JUN	CITYBANK N.A.	WIMBLEDON PARK	50
10 JUN	COMMERCIAL UNION ASSURANCE	MILL GREEN	38
10 JUN	LAWRENCE GRAHAM	THE RAC COUNTRY CLUB	50
10 JUN	NEVILLE RUSSELL	COLLINGTON PARK	44
10 JUN	TAYLOR JOYNSON GARNETT	WEST HILL	30
10 JUN	TULLEY & TOKYO INT	NEVER	120
11 JUN	ABBEY NATIONAL BENEFIT CONSULTANTS LTD	LEATHERHEAD	58
11 JUN	FIBERMET LIMITED	WELDON LAKES	28
11 JUN	INTERIOR PLC	EAST SUSSEX NATIONAL	40
11 JUN	NORTHWEST AUTO TRADING LTD	MERE G & CO	40
11 JUN	P. A. BUSINESS SYSTEMS LTD	GAINSBOROUGH	100
12 JUN	ALC YORKSHIRE	PIKE HILLS	50
12 JUN	BARCLAYS BANK / CLARKSON HYDE	HEGATE HILL	36
12 JUN	BERNARD BROS & CO LIMITED	PORTAL	40
12 JUN	CHASE	THE LONDON GOLF CLUB	40
12 JUN	COSTAIN SHAWKIN JV	ST MARYS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	50
12 JUN	DFDS TRANSPORT LTD	CITY WEST HOTEL	80
12 JUN	EXCALIBUR GROUP HOLDINGS LTD	TRENTHAM PARK	80
12 JUN	FIBERMET LIMITED	BLACK BUSH	20
12 JUN	FOSTER LEWIS STONE	NORTHWOOD	10
12 JUN	GERALD LIMITED	THE OXFORDSHIRE	80
12 JUN	IMPERIAL TOBACCO LIMITED	KINGS NORTON	80
12 JUN	MAGNET SECURITY & FIRE SYSTEMS LTD	RAMSEY	50
12 JUN	MORESECURE LTD	THE SHROPSHIRE	80
12 JUN	PALL EUROPE LTD	PORTSMOUTH	50
12 JUN	ROWE & MAW	ARNcliffe	40
12 JUN	SNC PNEUMATICS UK LTD	FOREST OF ARDEN	30
13 JUN	ALLIED DUNHAM	BASINGWOLD	40
13 JUN	CITROEN FLEET	WORLESWOOD	30
13 JUN	CURTIS HOLT LTD	WILDERNESS	80
13 JUN	DUNACELL BATTERIES LTD	CHARITON PARK	80
13 JUN	ISH ROWLEY HALL HOSPITAL	HOXTON HALL	50
13 JUN	PAPER MAXIMUS	THE TYTHENINGTON CLUB	140
13 JUN	ROBERT WINDWELL & PARTNERS	HATFIELD PARK	40
13 JUN	SHARPE & FISHER (BUILDING SUPPLIES) LTD	PICKUP HALL HOTEL & GOLF CLUB	30
13 JUN	SWALE CLAMBER OF COMMERCE	OTTENBOROUGH	44
14 JUN	ROWATER BUSINESS FORMS	ST PIERRE	80
14 JUN	HOLWELL PRECISION ENGINEERS LTD	HOLWELL LODGE	30
14 JUN	CITROEN SCOTTISH OPEN	DALMAHOY	40
14 JUN	COOPER & LYNNARD (SOUTH COAST PRACTICE)	PAULTON GOLF CENTRE	80
14 JUN	CROWN WINDOWS	CHURSTON	30
14 JUN	CUSTOMERLAND INDUSTRIES LTD	WILLIMORCHAMPTON	30
14 JUN	DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	KILLMOON	24
14 JUN	DONG & SMITH	ROYAL BURGESS GOLFING SOC. OF EDDINGBURGH	24
14 JUN	FIRMENICH UK LTD	STOCKLEY PARK	15
14 JUN	JAY TAYLOR WHITEHEAD LTD	HOLTON	120
14 JUN	MCCLELLAN MATTERS	MALONE	80
14 JUN	MERIDIAN BUSINESS SUPPORT PLC	PORTAL	30
14 JUN	N.I.C.S. SPORTS ASSOCIATION	LURBAN	80
14 JUN	PAUL, DAVISON, TAYLOR	BLIMFORD PARK GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	50
14 JUN	PILKINGTON UK LTD AQUA BLASS	LYNHAM	80
14 JUN	RICE-JONES & SMITH	WEST END	20
14 JUN	ROYSCOT GUERNSEY LIMITED	LE GRANDE MARIE	80
14 JUN	RUSSELL SUPPLIES LTD	WEST BERTY	40
14 JUN	THE MAYFLOWER CORPORATION PLC	WENTWORTH	80
14 JUN	YOSHIDA (UK) LTD	HALLING	80
14 JUN	TRAVIS PERKINS	COLLINGTON PARK	80
14 JUN	WALLIS CORROON	CELTIC MANOR	20
14 JUN	WILLIS CORROON MANAGEMENT (ISLE OF MAN)	PEEL HILL	40

FOR ENTRY DETAILS OR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL 0171 436 3415

OR WRITE TO: THE TIMES MEESPIERSON CORPORATE GOLF CHALLENGE, PO BOX 6, HAREWOOD, WETHERSLEY, YORKS YO21 2DL

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## SPORTS LETTERS

### TT riders must be allowed freedom of choice

From Mr Richard Thirkell

Sir, Regrettably as the latest Isle of Man TT deaths are, Andrew Longmore's arguments (June 3) for banning the event are wrong.

Figures of 168 deaths since 1908 may appear sensational, but analysed in a different way, for example as fatalities per racing mile, are much less dramatic. However, the debate should be more than playing with statistics.

It is a basic human instinct to seek danger and challenge, although stronger in some than in others. This instinct has produced sportsmen and explorers who have inspired nations and individuals not necessarily to emulate, but to push themselves to new limits of personal achievement.

To place life in cotton wool so that one is denied this challenge and risk will be to deny the human race one of the qualities that has enabled it to evolve as the dominant species, whether those risks are experienced through rock climbing, caving, horseriding, racing motorcycles, or simply through being inspired to push personal boundaries in everyday life.

The issue here, as with all similar cases, should not be whether to ban the TT but how to make sure that no reckless, wanton or unnecessary risks are taken, given the nature of

the sport. Informed and reasoned comment from both inside and outside the sport should be listened to, but the final decision must be left to those responsible for the sport's organisation. To impose solutions from Government not only correctly raises questions of civil liberties but also causes one to wonder question whether the eventual outcome could be as effective.

Yours faithfully,  
RICHARD THIRKELL,  
Rose Cottage, Park Corner,  
Groombridge,  
Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

From Mrs Helen Shephard  
Sir, We live right on the TT course, very close to where two of the accidents happened, and sometimes we are moving our lawn with our backs to the racers who pass by at high speeds and sometimes put their lives at risk.

What they are not doing is putting other road users in danger as do others who drive dangerously and cause thousands of deaths on the road. Our sympathy and prayers go out to the families of the racers who have lost their lives, but the racers themselves are dedicated, often professionals, who have worked hard to achieve a standard of driving or riding that the rest of us envy.

While they are willing to continue, we can only comment that some have died

doing what they most wish to do, and the comparison with Everest climbers is much more appropriate than comparison with those who take on uncertain risks without much thought or care.

We can vouch that safety is of paramount importance long before and all through the time of the races taking place. Medical cover is provided by helicopters so that in any incident the injured person is within hospital in minutes.

The number of viewing places is reviewed constantly. The police maintain a high presence, and this was particularly obvious on "Mad Sunday", when everyone does several circuits of the course: 99 per cent of riders were obeying the speed limits, in fact I had occasion to walk along the pavement twice and at no time did I feel any apprehension.

Before journalists comment, they should come and sample the happy atmosphere of hundreds of people here enjoying themselves. They all know the risks — it is their choice.

Yours truly,  
HELEN SHEPHARD,  
Lezayre Vicarage,  
Churchtown, Isle of Man.

Sports Letters may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5211. They should include a daytime telephone number.

### Footballers escape true collective punishment

From Mr William McKee

Sir, If the management and players of the England football team wish to adopt the principle of collective responsibility (reports, June 4), so be it. However, the correct response from the Football Association becomes very clear: the same punishment should be applied collectively as would have been applied to the individuals responsible had they had the courage to own up.

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The long-term benefits are even more attractive: a return

## The original paper



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**Caddick**

Caddick: back to best

**Grayson pro**

CHELMSFORD  
Mr. Eric Grayson is a professional cricketer and a former England batsman.

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## CRICKET

# Kent unable to keep Simmons in check

By JACK BAILEY

LEICESTER (second day of four): Leicestershire, with three first-innings wickets in hand, are three runs behind Kent

IT HAS been a hard battle at Grace Road, Leicestershire's innings, which took up most of the day, bore a remarkable resemblance to the pattern set by Kent on Wednesday, with one innings head and shoulders above the rest for ease of execution and the bowlers, for the most part, able to contain but not to penetrate.

Whereas Ward had been the exception to the rule for Kent, it was Phil Simmons, Leicestershire's lissom West Indian, who took the honours yesterday. Coming in with Leicestershire 85 for two in the first over after lunch, he announced himself with two fours through the covers and went on in the same delightful vein until given out leg-before on the sweep to Hooper.

Leicestershire also owed a debt to Ben Smith, who, with Simmons in such prime form, put aside his natural instincts. Of the 101 they added for the third wicket, Simmons made 82. So subdued was Smith by then that his progress from 41 to 51 took 62 balls, but this self-discipline by a natural stroke-maker has served his side well.

Smith eventually went on to his century in four hours and 40 minutes. It was the fourth of his career and his second of the season, and it displayed a welcome maturity. For uninhibited talent, though, it was Simmons who took the palm.

With Simmons at the crease, batting and artistry went hand in hand. He took the Kent attack by storm and caused Marsh to juggle and re-juggle his field placings. Simmons crashed seven fours in his first 33 runs and ten in his first 50, scored at just over a run a ball. By the time he was dismissed he had been in for only 87 minutes, had faced 75 balls, and had added a six to his 18 other boundaries.

McCague, Phillips, Preston:

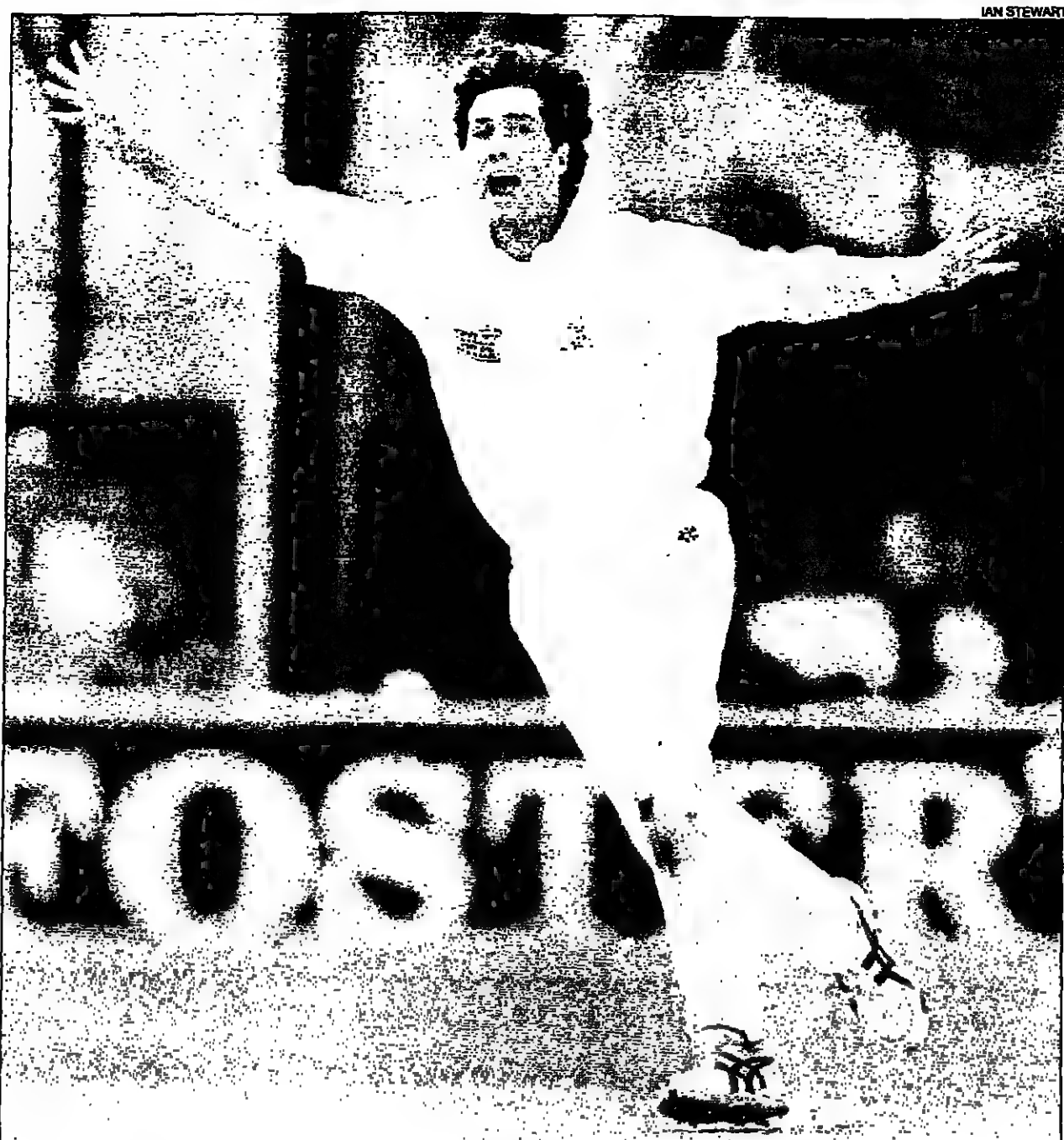
you name them, Simmons hit them. At one stage, Marsh was reduced to placing two gullies, one almost behind the other, a cover point and an extra cover, and that to bowlers of the pace of McCague and Phillips. Stanford's first ball of the match, a full toss, was deposited over mid-wicket for six, and although the slow left-arm bowler settled down to perform with accuracy and obtain some turn, picking up three good wickets, it was a pretty rough introduction.

This has been a good season for Leicestershire's batsmen — Habib, Whitaker and Nixon all figured high in the national averages before this match — but nobody has quite such a spell as Simmons since his late return from the Caribbean, as scores of 25, 51, 143 not out, 58 and his innings yesterday testify.

The Kent bowlers and fielders stuck to their task well. As befits their position in the championship, the whole side maintained a sense of urgency and direction and, gradually, the Leicestershire innings was whittled away. McCague prised out Maddy and Wells, but it was the spinners, Hooper and Stanford, who threatened most. The turn on this pitch was slow, but turn there was, and although Leicestershire, for the most part, exercised great care, wickets fell at regular intervals after the stand between Simmons and Smith.

Of the big guns, Whitaker gave a sharp chance to silly mid-off before being well-caught on the square-leg boundary. Habib played a dreadful yaboo in the process of being stumped, and Stanford completed a notable treble when he bowled Nixon.

The Kent tail subsided to Parsons and Mills. It took these two four overs to remove Preston — bowled by a beauty — and Phillips. Mills and Parsons thus finished with three wickets apiece and admirable figures on a wicket that had given them little help.



Something to shout about: Ronnie Irani celebrates after taking the wicket of Mohammed Azharuddin, the India captain, during his first over in Test cricket for England at Edgbaston yesterday. Report, page 48

## Hollioake's haul piles on pressure

By SIMON WILDE

MIDDLESBROUGH (first day of four): Yorkshire won toss; Surrey, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are 229 runs behind Yorkshire

YORKSHIRE have a poorer championship record at Acklam Park than at any other home ground in recent years, and they failed to deal convincingly enough with a depleted Surrey side yesterday to inspire confidence that they can end a barren series of results, dating back to 1989. They were all out for 305 and in reply Surrey had scored 70 for two by the close.

On a pitch which gave hope to the fast-medium bowlers, though, the chances are that there will be a result and

Yorkshire, second in the championship table, can take heart from the fact that their opponents are badly lacking in confidence. They have let slip a couple of victories that should have been theirs.

Nothing seemed likelier at the end of the first session than that Yorkshire would be around 400 for five at the close. They were then 145 for two, with Vaughan and Bevan together and looking completely at ease, and McGrath having got them off to a rattling start with 41 from 40 balls. The outfield was so fast that any shot piercing the field would almost certainly escape capture.

In fact, only Vaughan went on to make a score of substance, his cultured 135 constituting half his side's total

when he was seventh out, and providing further evidence of his growing maturity. He played himself in more cautiously than his colleagues and when wickets started to fall he did not allow it to disturb his steady rhythm.

Having batted faultlessly for 4½ hours, he fell to a catch at the wicket off Benjamin five minutes before tea — which was delayed because Surrey were three overs behind the required number — attempting his unimpeachable extra cover drive of the day. It was a stroke which brought him many of his 23 fours.

Several of the Yorkshire players will rue the strokes to which they got out, not least Bevan. He looked in prime form before pulling at a ball that would have been best

played down to his feet and spooning a catch to mid-on. No sooner did White and Blakey reach the crease, than they played on.

All three fell to the bowling of Ben Hollioake, 18, who enjoyed an excellent first day in first-class cricket, returning his side's best figures of four for 74 from 21 overs. Bowling at a bustling medium-pace, he ducked the ball into the right-hand and promises to be a useful addition to Surrey's attack.

He enjoyed the unusual experience of entering the game under the captaincy of his elder brother, Adam. They are the eighth pair of brothers active in county cricket, three of whom have a Surrey connection — the others being the Bicknells and Butchers.

## Caddick drops hint to selectors with five-wicket haul

By PAT GIBSON

TAUNTON (first day of four): Somerset won toss; Somerset, with six first-innings wickets in hand, are 149 runs behind Warwickshire

ANDREW CADDICK's relief at being told that the shin soreness which has plagued him for the past two seasons has cleared up at last, coupled with ideal conditions for his type of bowling, made it an uncomfortable day for the county champions, who did well to get as far as they did.

It was a good toss for Somerset to win on the morn-

ing after a scan had revealed that the stiffness that Caddick had been feeling had nothing to do with his old problems. The ball swung in the sultry heat and seemed off a well-grassed pitch and Caddick looked every inch an England bowler again.

He finished with five for 76 but his figures did scant justice to the quality of his bowling. In fact, he probably did too much with the ball. Penney in particular playing and missing time and again before putting together an innings of 77 that did most to lift Warwickshire to 255.

They would have settled for

that after losing their first two wickets for seven, Khan playing on to a ball which cut back at him and Ooster being beaten by late movement and caught at third slip.

Miles, captaining the side in the absence of Reeve and Minton, was the one player with the technique to survive such an examination but, just as he was looking to expand, he was undone at the other end by Rose's clever inswing.

Penney, meanwhile, had been riding his luck. Bowler putting him down at fourth slip off Caddick before he had scored and the diminutive Holliday at cover failing to

pull down a slash off Lee when he had made 14.

The fifth-wicket pair had put on 78 when Caddick returned to have Brown picked up low down by Lathwell at cover. Caddick sat Pollock on his backside with a bouncer first ball but neither that nor a series of deliveries which seemed to go straight through him could deter the young South African and Somerset needed a run-out for their next wicket. Penney, who had batted away for more than three hours, hesitated over a leg bye and Lathwell threw the wicket down from mid-wicket.

There were two more wickets for Caddick as the tail subsided but a question mark remained over his stamina when he decided, with the last pair together, that he had had enough bowling. Rose obliged and claimed the final wicket with his first ball.

Then it was Somerset's turn to struggle. The pitch appeared to have eased under the effects of the hot sun and the heavy roller when Lathwell and Bowler were putting on 35 for the first wicket but then two wickets for Pollock and two for Brown meant that Somerset ended on 100 for four.

## Grayson proves his worth

By IVO TENNANT

CHELMSFORD (first day of four): Essex won toss; Essex have scored 448 for six wickets against Lancashire

THIS was no occasion on which to lose the toss or, consequently, be a bowler or a Lancastrian. Three Essex batsmen made centuries yesterday, Stuart Law playing the most dismissive innings and Graham Gooch the most technically correct. Paul Grayson was as impressive as any in that this was his first important innings for his adopted county.

The upshot was a sizeable total. There were runs made swiftly against bowling that was, shall we say, lacking in devil. Grayson, who went in first wicket down in the ab-

sence of Hussain, and who had made one century for Yorkshire, achieved the highest score of his career, 129. Gooch and Law never did anything other than take the attack to the bowlers.

Crawley had arrived from Edgbaston by lunchtime, but Lancashire preferred not to wait for Martin, reasoning that they needed more than two seamers for the first session of the match. Ultimately, it mattered not a jot who bowled. The pitch, which Essex hope will take spin later in the match, was a beauty.

Neither was it an occasion on which to be out in the first over, Robinson padding up to one on off stump from Chapple. It was mid-afternoon by the time that the next wicket fell, Gooch having reached the 122nd first-class century of his career. He will be 43 next month, but there is no need for him to contemplate retirement when his judgment of length, strength in his forearms and general fitness remain as they are.

As ever, watched by his parents, Gooch had made 92 by lunch. His second century of the season came off 137 balls, and included 18 fours. Shortly afterwards, Keedy had him caught at mid-on, whereupon Law came in and struck the

ball even harder. If that would seem to be an impossibility — does not Gooch use a heavier bat than anybody else? — here are two examples of how Law struck the ball yesterday. Chapple, supposedly an England bowler in the making, was hit for a skimming six over mid-wicket off the back foot. Then, Speak was driven on to the top tier of the T.N. Pearce stand at deep mid-wicket, a terrific shot.

Law's century, his sixth in 11 innings, four of them in first-class cricket, came off just 101 balls, including 12 fours and three sixes. Grayson, with whom he put on 205 in 44 overs, could not compete with that, but it scarcely mattered. Once again, Essex reckon that they have a cricketer who possesses a greater sense of self now that his ability is better appreciated. The Yorkshireman's century came off 257 balls and included 17 fours, the majority pleasantly timed.

When Law surprisingly mistimed a pull to mid-on off Austin, the remainder of the final session inevitably became anti-climactic. Today, Nathan Wood, the son of Barry Wood, the former England batsman, will open Lancashire's innings. This is the pitch that he would choose for his debut.

## Adams takes honours on day of big scores

By GEOFFREY WHEELER

IT WAS the day of the No 3. Five occupants of this most important batting position made centuries in county championship matches yesterday with pride of place going to Chris Adams, of Derbyshire, who scored an unbeaten 213, three short of his career best, at the expense of the sweltering Hampshire bowlers at Southampton.

Adams, the third Derbyshire player to score a double-century this season — after Kim Barnett and Dean Jones — put on 298 in 77 overs for the second wicket with Adrian Rollins (131), whose dismissal brought Jones to the crease with the board showing 324 for two.

Happily for Hampshire, Jones made only 19, but Adams, who has so far struck five sixes and 23 fours, and defied the best efforts of eight bowlers, looks in the mood to cause more mayhem today. Alan Wells, the Sussex captain, promoted himself to first wicket down against Durham at Hove and, while Bill Athey grafted away, provided sparkling entertainment. Wells reached his hundred in 168 minutes off 147 balls, hitting 20 fours. Athey took twice as long and hit half the number of boundaries.

Robert Bailey, the Northamptonshire captain, batting in his usual position, led his side into a strong position at Trent Bridge, where Nottinghamshire paid a heavy price for two missed chances by Chris Tolley, who split opportunities to remove both Bailey (11) not out and Mal Loye (98), who added 191 in 61 overs for the third wicket.

Loye was the first to escape, on three, when he drove a low cover. Bailey had reached 57 when he survived a more straightforward opportunity in the same position. He took more than five hours to reach his hundred, but, at 269 for three, Nottinghamshire are sitting pretty on a pitch expected to help the spinners.

Gary Butcher, the Glamorgan No 3, failed to make a century at Lord's, but he was top scorer with 63 — his fifth half-century in successive games — as Glamorgan were bowled out for 238, Richard Fay and James Hewitt, Middlesex's novice seam bowlers, being responsible for seven of the wickets.

Mike Gatting's 39th birthday celebrations were spoilt somewhat when Middlesex lost their opening pair while scoring 25 runs in reply.

## YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

### Britannic Assurance county championship Essex v Lancashire

CHELMSFORD (first day of four: Essex won toss) Essex have scored 448 for six wickets against Lancashire

ESSEX: First Innings  
G A Gooch c Austin b Keady 101  
D J Robinson b b Chapple 0  
A P Grayson b Keady 129  
S G Law c Gooch b Austin 144  
P J Richards c Titchard b Austin 2  
J B Lees not out 33  
D J Rhodes c Gooch b Watkinson 9  
M C Not out 9  
Extras (lb 7, nb 14) 21  
Total (6 wickets, 115 overs) 448  
P M Suth, A P Cowan and S J W Andrew to bowl  
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-3, 2-178, 3-383, 4-380, 5-401, 6-425  
BOWLING: Chapple 13-1-80-1, Eworthy 13-0-67-0, Austin 22-3-96-2, Watkinson 28-6-105-1, Keady 34-11-75-2, Speak 5-0-18-0  
LANCASHIRE: M T Wood, M J Speak, J P Crawley, S P Tinsford, G D Lloyd, M Watkinson, H V Hogg, I D Austin, 5 Gooch, G Chapple, G Keady  
Extras (lb 5, nb 2, nb 28) 35  
Total (4 wickets, 106.1 overs) 302  
D R C Law, P M Suth, I D Austin, V C Davies, J D Lewis and E S Hoggins to bowl  
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-15, 2-211, 3-288, 4-302  
BOWLING: Brown 24-1-60-2, Bates 12-1-0-0, Betchard 24-67-2, Belling 22-41-0, Cor 24-7-64-0

### Hampshire v Derbyshire SOUTHAMPTON (first day of four: Derbyshire won toss) Derbyshire have scored 389 for four wickets against Hampshire

DERBYSHIRE: First Innings  
K J Barnett b Connor 7  
A S Rollins c Whittaker b Udd 131  
C J Adams not out 213  
D M Jones b b James 63  
T A Tweed c White b James 0  
I E Owen not out 19  
Extras (lb 1, nb 10) 11  
Total (4 wickets, 112 overs) 389  
K J Barnett, P A J DeFreese, M J Vandaele, A J Harris and D E Maitland to bowl  
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-26, 2-324, 3-380, 4-389  
BOWLING: Connor 11-4-51-1, Bowl 10-3-34-0, James 22-2-53-2, Stephenson 8-1-32-0, Udd 12-6-112-1, Mars 20-5-48-0, Whittaker 3-0-20-0, White 0-0-34-0  
HAMPSHIRE: J P Stephenson, J S Loney, I D Jones, R A Smith, P R Whittaker, G W Lacey, G Chapple, G Keady, R Minto, A Connor, J N B Bost  
Extras (lb 1, nb 1) 2  
Total (4 wickets, 112 overs) 389  
BONUS POINTS: Hampshire 1, Derbyshire 4  
Umpires: G Stump and B J Meyer

### Middlesex v Glamorgan LONDON (first day of four: Glamorgan won toss) Middlesex, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are 213 runs behind Glamorgan

GLAMORGAN: First Innings  
S P James c Wicket b Hewitt 16  
A W Evans c Wicket b Play 12  
S P Bache c Brown b Play 63  
M P Maynard c Brown b Hewitt 11  
A Cooty c Brown b Play 7  
R D B Croft c Brown b Fraser 26  
I D Shaw c Brown b Fraser 38  
D D Thomas c Wicket b Play 48  
M J Kendrick c Play b Fraser 0  
S R Bannock c Fleming b Hewitt 3  
Extras (lb 1, nb 4) 11  
Total (8 wickets, 11.2 overs) 238  
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-38, 2-38, 3-58, 4-58, 5-138, 6-142, 7-228, 8-228, 9-237  
BOWLING: Fraser 24-4-80-3, Play 18-5-55-4, Hewitt 11-0-50-3, Tinsford 28-8-40-0, Wicket 10-3-14-0  
MIDDLESEX: First Innings  
P N Wicket b Croft 15  
C Dooly c James b Thomas 8  
A Fay not out 0  
J C Harrison not out 0  
Extras (lb 1, nb 2) 3  
Total (2 wickets, 10 overs) 28  
M R Stamp, M W Gatting, J D C, R J Bailey, B A Hoggins, A R C Fraser and P C R Tinsford to bowl  
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-11, 2-25  
BOWLING: Dooly 4-2-14-0, Thomas 5-0-10-1, Croft 1-0-1-0  
BONUS POINTS: Middlesex 4, Glamorgan 1  
Umpires: J H Hampshire and K E Palmer

### Nottinghamshire v Northamptonshire TRENT BRIDGE (first day of four: Northamptonshire won toss) Northamptonshire have scored 389 for three wickets against Nottinghamshire

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE: First Innings  
R B Morgan c b Bailey b Gurney 31  
A Fotherham c Bates b Evans 111  
M J Bailey not out 72  
M B Loe c b Bailey b Evans 22  
J P Taylor not out 22  
Extras (lb 9, nb 4, nb 12) 25  
Total (3 wickets, 10.7 overs) 269  
D J Gurney, R J Bailey, A L Percival, A R Roberts, J E Embury and C E L Amlaway to bowl  
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-23, 2-73, 3-264  
BOWLING: Gurney 18-4-42-1, Evans 25-11-42-2, Poir 20-7-40-0, Amlaway 22-6-54-0, Bates 14-4-5-0, Tolley 8-1-31-0  
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE: P R Pollard, R T Robinson, G F Aherne, P Johnson, R N P Redder, C J Gurney, C M Tolley, A P Evans, R T Bates, R A Pich, J A Allford  
Extras (lb 1, nb 1) 2  
Total (3 wickets, 10.7 overs) 269  
BONUS POINTS: Nottinghamshire 1, Northamptonshire 4  
Umpires: J Baldstone and N T Pevs

### Somerset v Warwickshire TAUNTON (first day of four: Somerset won toss) Somerset, with six first-innings wickets in hand, are 149 runs behind Warwickshire

WARWICKSHIRE: First Innings  
\*A J Miles b b Rose 17  
W G Khan b Caddick 0  
D P Colley c Rose b Caddick 77  
I L Penney not out 11  
D R Brown c Lathwell b Caddick 34  
S M Pollock c Holliday b Lee 43  
TK J Pugh b b Caddick 18  
G Wicket c Lee b Caddick 8  
N M A Smith c b Rose 8  
A F Giles b Lee 6  
D A Miles not out 21  
Extras (lb 3, nb 3, nb 10) 16  
Total (7 wickets, 11.2 overs) 255  
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-3, 2-7, 3-46, 4-124, 5-159, 6-202, 7-214, 8-219, 9-240  
BOWLING: Caddick 23-6-75-5, Shaw 11-1-33-0, Rose 13-4-37-2, Lee 19-5-86-2, Bailey 7-3-10-0  
SOMERSET: First Innings  
M L Lawler b b Pollock 18  
P D Bowler c Penney b Brown 30  
N A Harford b b Pollock 11  
M E Treachnotch not out 18  
C L Hoadley b Brown 17  
S Lee not out 17  
Extras (lb 5, nb 3, nb 4) 12  
Total (4 wickets, 31 overs) 106  
TH: Turner, G D Rose, J D Bailey, A R Caddick, and K J Bailey to bowl  
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-35, 2-63, 3-78, 4-80  
BOWLING: Pollock 10-3-20-2, Aherne 7-0-40-0, Wicket 6-1-21-0, Brown 7-2-30-2, Smith 1-1-0-0  
BONUS POINTS: Somerset 4, Warwickshire 3  
Umpires: R Jansen and R Palmer

### Sussex v Durham HOVE (first day of four: Sussex won toss) Sussex have scored 302 for four wickets against Durham

SUSSEX: First Innings  
C W J Athey b b Betchard 100  
T A Rodford b Brown 113  
A P Wells c Campbell b Betchard 113  
K R Greenfield b b Brown 38  
N J Latham not out 39  
Extras (lb 5, nb 2, nb 28) 35  
Total (4 wickets, 106.1 overs) 302  
D R C Law, P M Suth, I D Austin, V C Davies, J D Lewis and E S Hoggins to bowl  
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-15, 2-211, 3-288, 4-302  
BOWLING: Brown 24-1-60-2, Bates 12-1-0-0, Betchard 24-67-2, Belling 22-41-0, Cor 24-7-64-0

### Leicestershire v Kent LEICESTER (second day of four: Leicestershire won toss) Leicestershire, with three first-innings wickets in hand, are three runs behind Kent

KENT: First Innings  
D P Fulton c Nixon b Simmons 34  
M V Fleming c Nixon b Parsons 2  
T Ward c Maddy b Simmons 90  
C J Hoggins c Parsons b Parsons 35  
R G Cowley c Simmons b Mills 71  
M A Eatham c Nixon b Parsons 14  
S A March b b Simmons 51  
M J McCague c Habib b Mills 0  
N W Preston b Parsons 12  
B J Phillips not out 1  
E J Stanford not out 0  
Extras (lb 2, nb 6, nb 4, nb 8) 20  
Total (14 wickets, 10.1 overs) 324  
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-6, 2-100, 3-166, 4-167, 5-207, 6-210, 7-210, 8-210, 9-210  
BOWLING: Mills 21-9-43-3, Parsons 21-5-26-3, Wells 8-7-22-0, Preston 22-5-70-1, Simmons 18-3-33-3, Brown 24-5-60-0

### Leicestershire v Kent LEICESTER (second day of four: Leicestershire won toss) Leicestershire, with three first-innings wickets in hand, are three runs behind Kent

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M A Eatham c Nixon b Parsons 14  
S A March b b Simmons 51  
M J McCague c Habib b Mills 0  
N W Preston b Parsons 12  
B J Phillips not out 1  
E J Stanford not out 0  
Extras (lb 2, nb 6, nb 4, nb 8) 20  
Total (14 wickets, 10.1 overs) 324  
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-6, 2-100, 3-166, 4-167, 5-207, 6-210, 7-210, 8-210, 9-210  
BOWLING: Mills 21-9-43-3, Parsons 21-5-26-3, Wells 8-7-22-0, Preston 22-5-70-1, Simmons 18-3-33-3, Brown 24-5-60-0

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M A Eatham c Nixon b Parsons 14  
S A March b b Simmons 51  
M J McCague c Habib b Mills 0  
N W Preston b Parsons 12  
B J Phillips not out 1  
E J Stanford not out 0  
Extras (lb 2, nb 6, nb 4, nb 8) 20  
Total (14 wickets, 10.1 overs) 324  
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-6, 2-100, 3-166, 4-167, 5-207, 6-210, 7-210, 8-210, 9-210  
BOWLING: Mills 21-9-43-3, Parsons 21-5-26-3, Wells 8-7-22-0, Preston 22-5-70-1, Simmons 18-3-33-3, Brown 24-5-60-0

### Yorkshire v Surrey MIDDLESBROUGH (first day of four: Yorkshire won toss) Yorkshire, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are 229 runs behind Surrey

YORKSHIRE: First Innings  
A McCreedy c Harvey b Dalton 41  
M P Vaughan c Butcher b Benjamin 135  
D Bate c A Hollioake b Pearson 6  
M G Brown c Bicknell b B C Hollioake 3  
C White b B C Hollioake 3  
R J Bailey b B C Hollioake 21  
A C Morris c Bicknell b A J Hollioake 24  
D Gough c A J Hollioake b Benjamin 28  
P J Bicknell c Harvey b Hollioake 28  
C W Silverwood c Harvey b Benjamin 18  
R Stamp not out 12  
Extras (lb 4, nb 2, nb 12) 18  
Total (7 wickets, 10.1 overs) 305  
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-61, 2-86, 3-161, 4-167, 5-207, 6-210, 7-210, 8-210, 9-210  
BOWLING: Mills 21-9-43-3, Parsons 21-5-26-3, Wells 8-7-22-0, Preston 22-5-70-1, Simmons 18-3-33-3, Brown 24-5-60-0

### University match Oxford University v Worcester THE PARKS (first day of four: Worcester won toss) Oxford University, with 21 first-innings wickets in hand, are 348 runs behind Worcester

WORCESTER: First Innings  
W P L Weston not out 124  
M C Church c b b Wagh 152  
K R Spring b Wagh 16  
T M Moody not out 16  
S S O'Sullivan c b b b Thomson 19  
S R Lampert not out 11  
Extras (lb 3, nb 2, nb 8) 13  
Total (4 wickets, 40.3 overs) 403  
TH: Davidson, R J Newson, R K Longworth, M Ramsley and B A Preece did not bowl  
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-258, 2-270, 3-297, 4-303  
BOWLING: Du Preez 8-0-60-4, Thomson 12-0-41-1, Minter 10-0-40-0, Hale 20-1-121-0, Wagh 20-4-71-2, Lightowler 21-31-0, Suckling 1-0-0-0  
OXFORD UNIVERSITY: First Innings  
A N Suckling not out 39  
J Suckling not out 12  
Extras (lb 4, nb 10) 14  
Total (no wicket) 56  
A N Suckling, C G R Lightowler, J N Batty, W B Kendrick, R J Suckling, M A Wagh, R B Thomson, S R Du Preez and D P Minter to bowl  
BOWLING: Newport 5-4-3-0, Preece 7-0-60-3, Ramsley 21-3-20-0  
Umpires: V A Hodge and J Loyd

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ATHLETICS: PAST AND PRESENT WORLD CHAMPIONS TO RENEW RIVALRY IN GERMANY TONIGHT

# Christie has chance to make Bailey pay

DONOVAN BAILEY stepped into the taxi taking him to training here in Nuremberg yesterday, stopping to answer only one question. Was he looking forward to racing Linford Christie? "He's just another runner," Bailey said. The car door slammed and off he went.

On the assumption that both athletes progress from their heat, the 100 metres final tonight brings together the world champion and the Olympic champion for the first time since the first time they met. Since their last race, Bailey has accused Christie of feigning injury at the 1995 world championships and his comment yesterday will hardly endear him to a man who believes that he does not receive the respect that he deserves.

Bailey, though he succeeded Christie as world champion, seems to have forgotten that he finished the season 5-4 down in races between them last year. The Briton will not lack incentive tonight to put first chalk on the board, having lost his season's undefeated record in Rome on Wednesday and now finding that Bailey, apparently, thinks him worth no special mention.

The locals, evidently, think differently, for it is the former world champion's photograph that appears on the programme cover. When Christie goes to his blocks, he may be fired up recalling that, in January, Bailey suggested that he was acting when he collapsed at the finish of the world championship final, clutching his hamstring.

"Absolutely no one was injured in that race," Bailey said. "My opinion, my coach's opinion, and the opinion of the competitors I know is that no one was injured." Suspicions were strengthened when Christie beat Bailey in Zurich ten days later, but Sue Barker, Christie's manager, responded immediately. "It was a genuine injury," Barker said, a view supported by British team medic in Gothenburg.

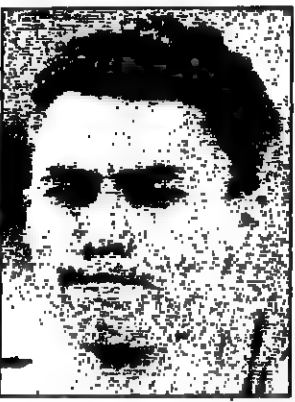
DAVID POWELL



Athletics correspondent

Bailey said, furthermore, that Christie was "bluffing" over missing the Olympics, a view which has since been echoed by Carl Lewis. Christie still refuses to confirm one way or the other, but while the soloist declines to sing, the chorus grows louder. "I think Linford is playing games with people," Jonathan Edwards, the triple jump world champion, said after his victory in Rome, where Christie was beaten by Dennis Mitchell, of the United States, 10.05sec to 10.10sec.

The articulate Edwards is not given to making statements lightly and his observations came in the context of expressing the value of Christie.



Edwards: articulate

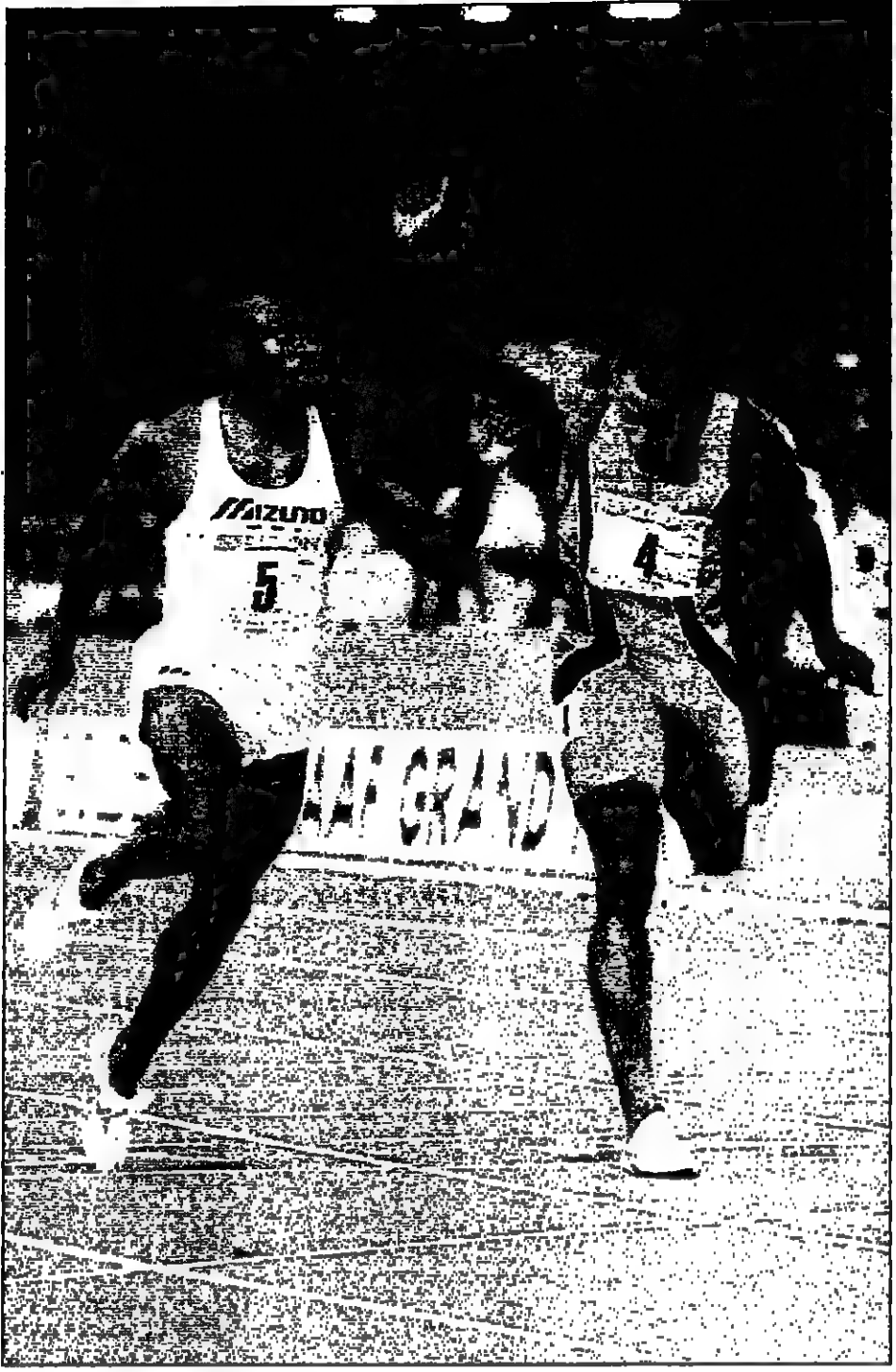
tie to the British Olympic team. "We all want to see him there and he may win it again," Edwards said. "He has been a great performer over the years and, mentally, there is no one to beat him."

Edwards appeared to be heading for his first defeat in 17 competitions but, with his last jump, overtook Joelvis Quesada, from Cuba, to win with 17.55 metres. Even after three victories this season, Edwards still feels like a man not enjoying his first days back at work after a holiday.

After 11 weeks in Florida, training but enjoying having his family with him, Edwards is struggling to adjust. "Having had eight years of ordinariness and to have changed the face of the event to where the triple jump has become about me is difficult to come to terms with," Edwards said. "In disaster, there is an isolation and loneliness, and there is also isolation and loneliness in success."

"I got to warm up [in Rome] and tried to get into a positive frame of mind. Yet there were times when I was for getting on that bus and walking away from it. The feeling in my body after Madrid [the European Cup last weekend] was like the end of the season. I have not got the excitement, that buzz." He added that a sore heel and knee might lead him to sit out the British Olympic trials next weekend.

Other Britons in action tonight are Colin Jackson, Sally Gunnell and Jon Brown. Jackson is seeking to stop a run of three successive defeats in the 110 metres hurdles. The task is a hard one as he faces Florian Schwarthoff, who beat him in the European Cup. Brown was to have run in Rome but missed his flight and came here hoping to find a vacant place in the 5,000 metres. He is lucky because Salah Hissou, of Morocco, who ran the second fastest 5,000 metres in history, 12min 50.80sec, in Rome, is tired and has switched to the 1,500 metres.



Despite a late surge, Christie, right, is beaten into second place by Mitchell in Rome

## EQUESTRIANISM

## Stroke of Luck gives Tait an early advantage

By Jenny MacArthur

BLYTH TAIT, whose place in the New Zealand squad for the Olympic Games in Atlanta was announced this week, took the lead at the end of a sultry first day of dressage at the Bramham International Horse Trials yesterday. His performance on Stroke of Luck was remarkable, considering that he first sat on the horse just ten days ago, accepting the ride on the nine-year-old mare after Christian Landwehr, her owner, broke his shoulder in a fall on the Flat at Luthmühlen in Germany last month.

"She is a lovely jumper. I just hope I can do justice to her," Tait, a former world champion, said. The signs for the partnership are propitious. At their first competition together, the open intermediate at Lowestoft last weekend, they finished second.

Tait has a slender 1.6pts lead over Simon Lawrence, on The Bishop, Lawrence, from Chilton, in Oxfordshire, produced one of his best tests to date on the ten-year-old gelding, which finished 39th at Bramham last year — after a "hiccup" at the water — and was 29th at Blenheim in September.

First place in the advanced class at Weston two weeks ago has boosted Lawrence's confidence for the imposing 27-fence cross-country course tomorrow.

Ian Stark, another Briton, in a comfortable third place after a relaxed, obedient test on the Irish-bred Forest Glen, is adopting a more cautious approach tomorrow. The nine-year-old gelding ran out last year when attempting the quick route at The Pheasant Feeder, the fourth fence, and Stark, whose place in the Olympic squad with Starwick

Ghost, his top horse, is expected to be announced on Monday, is not prepared to take unnecessary risks this time.

If any of the leaders make a mistake, Leslie Law and Owen Moore, two stylish cross-country riders, who are in eighth and ninth places, are likely to take advantage. Law, who is shortlisted for Atlanta with New Flavour, is riding Cruiseaway, on which he was third at Pau, in France, last year.

Moore is also in confident mood with incidental. The 11-



Tait: setting pace

year-old gelding won Belton in April and has been placed in three other advanced classes. "He's extremely scopey and very fast," Moore said. He intends to take all the quick routes.

The pecking order may have already been reshuffled by tomorrow. Among those doing their tests today are Mary King, on her Compiègne winner, King Solomon, and Pippa Funnell, the winner of Windsor last month, with The Tourmaline Rose.

Results, page 45

## YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

## Goodwood

Going: good to firm (good in straight)  
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FOOTBALL: WHY EURO 96 MAY FAIL TO UNEARTH A NATURAL SUCCESSOR TO THE GAME'S GREATS

# Ill winds threaten to extinguish the torch of genius

"Whom God wishes to destroy, he first makes mad."

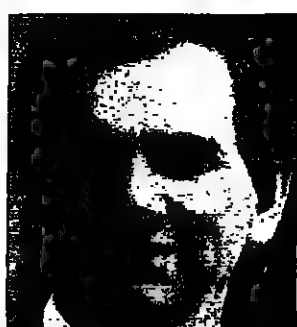
Euripides (480-406 BC)

It seems as if our children's role models have to be stripped, literally, of bare-chested buffoonery, on the road to self-destruction, even before they achieve it. I shall avoid adding to the volume of references to the escapades of Paul Gascoigne, not least because he is not alone in that broken image of English sportsmanship, and because supposedly far more intelligent England players look just as daft and exposed as him. But, when searching for a player in Euro 96 who might just give us a flicker of greatness, Gascoigne does indeed come into the role of men given a gift by God. If only they had the sanity to know how to use it.

Think of the sport's idols. Di Stefano was on the pedestal through to the Sixties. Pelé, imperious in ability and humility, took up the baton through to the Seventies. He handed it to Cruyff and Beckenbauer, whose retirement allowed Maradona to carry the mantle of world greatness. He was the forerunner to the really flawed idols. We hope not to see another man betray such a playing fortune by quite such depths, but, arguably, the three players in this European tournament who come closest to being brushed by genius seem singularly mentally challenged.

I think of Gascoigne, of George Hagi, the Romanian known as "the Maradona of the Balkans", and of Hristo Stoichkov, whom some

ROB HUGHES



Football correspondent

believe invented his own soliloquy: "God is a Bulgarian". All three are capable of absolute fantasy on a football field, all three could be the hub, in spirit and in the sweet flow of the game, for the success of teams built around them. Yet when Stoichkov stamps on the foot of a referee, when Hagi goes on his perennial binges, when Gascoigne...

I do not believe that the modern game, or the way we address it, permits gifted individuals to endure. The game was always transient, simply because a player is over the hill once he turns 30. Alfredo Di Stefano, and particularly Pelé, defied that because the era in which they performed allowed them the great dignity of changing with the times, of adapting the game and the players whom they commanded to the broadening knowledge in their minds and the waning breath in their lungs.

They could, in a phrase, make others play for them. How one would love to be proved wrong, and to find that Gascoigne could indeed intuitively grow up. But what true hope is there?

Eric Cantona and Roberto Baggio, who would have made up the number to five really gifted individuals, have not even been selected, by France and Italy respectively. Cantona, his national team coach decided, represented a danger to team harmony, a man whose mind could not be put on the wavelength of a team now unbeaten in 23 games. Baggio may simply be in dire need of a summer respite: he should never have been made to play on damaged knees in the 1994 World Cup, and he, like virtually every leading professional in Europe, has scarcely known what a summer holiday means.

Baggio is a multimillionaire; they all seem to be, even before potential is converted to profit in the playing sense. Think of the million-pound salaries, think of the boot contracts thrown at the feet of Robbie Fowler, Stan Collymore and Ryan Giggs; the money of a lottery winner showered on players who have yet to turn apprenticeships into quantifiable success.

One wonders if the game, laughably called a profession, will ever take the responsibility to teach young men, very often from working-class environments, how to cope with fortunes, how to behave in public, how to withstand the idolatry of pop stardom.

England has a professional players' union — most countries in Europe do — but the teaching elements required, even though there are some dedicated workers, never seem to penetrate those destined for the very top. Nor have the unions even scratched the surface of persuading the paymasters to think of the body, never mind the psychology, of players such as Alessandro del Piero, Italy's young soldier of fortune, who might be another fleeting wonder at Euro 96. He surely has the gift. The way he can glide with a ball, change the pace and direction not only of his movement but also of a game, and the way he can deliver a goal from fantas-



Maradona was the forerunner of the modern flawed idol. Photograph: Richard Sellers

tic angles, are all reasons why Baggio has been overlooked by Italy. Yet the Del Piero of summer is a shadow of the 20-year-old of winter. He has been made to play for the Army, for Italy's under-21 and Olympic teams, for the national team, and for the Juventus team which won the European Cup. Del Piero has gone well past 50 games this season, and that, with the emotional approach Italy expects of its footballers, is far too draining a schedule.

Within the next weeks, the adrenalin flow of the competition, our openness to being entertained, will doubtless allow the enthusiasm to rise, so that words like greatness and magnificence rise again. But remember 1994? The player

who, at the last World Cup, thrilled me more than any other was Romario. Unlike Marco van Basten, the cruel defenders who would chop his limbs could not actually catch the Brazilian. But, said by rewards, he has faded into beach debauchery, gone into a terribly wasted early twilight in Rio de Janeiro. Whom God...

## Swiss assume look of calm before dawn

BY ROB HUGHES

FOR a team said to be riven with internal discontent, supposedly fuming at the lack of fair play that prevents them from training at Wembley before the opening match of Euro 96 tomorrow, and fearful of a good hiding from England, the Swiss are good actors. In the sunshine yesterday, they were so laid back as to be almost supine in the courtyards around the thousand-year-old country manor that is their base in north Hertfordshire.

Worried about the English? Marc Hotzger, the Everton right back, who is suspended for the game tomorrow, said: "We know what we can do. We are very quiet, very calm about it, but we have good technique, and though England also has some technically capable players, you will see our midfield keeping the ball moving. Why shouldn't we be relaxed, we have come through a World Cup?"

Hotzger also was at pains to dismiss talk of alarm in the camp concerning Arthur Jorge, their Portuguese coach, who, having inherited another man's squad, surprised them all by leaving out two of Switzerland's established players — Adrian Knup, the centre forward, and Alain Sutter, the midfield creator. "It's a decision for the coach," Hotzger said. "We don't have to say anything about his choice, but it's normal in a team, even when you are surprised, to pull together once you play matches."

Jorge, who had a brain tumour removed two years ago, is exceptional among men. He speaks six languages, has two degrees, one in modern literature and one in philosophy, and when it comes to the cageyness of disguising his intent and his tactics, he does not come second to Terry Venables.

Will Switzerland, for example, play three in attack, thus obliging England to abandon, for the opening game, the three-man defensive system and revert to 4-4-2? Jorge smiles behind his black-brush moustache. "There are some things I cannot tell you," he said. "We have to complicate it for each other for as long as possible." Yet he will talk, deeply,

about the so-called discontent. "When you do something like this," he said of the dropping of Knup and Sutter, "it is normal that not everyone is happy. They have friends in the squad, but, in my opinion, they had a very bad season. I went several times to Germany to watch Knup playing for Karlsruhe. Most of the time he was left on the bench. I witnessed only seven minutes... and Stéphane Chapuisat is a player you cannot compare Knup with. Chapuisat can do something important here in England, I think."

He thinks, this coach, a great deal. Some of the aggression that has come from the media reflects the resentment felt by everyone that Roy Hodgson, the Englishman who had built the Switzerland team beyond expectation, was not allowed to carry through his mission and work as coach to Internazionale at the same time.

**'He knows the nation will blame him for any failings'**

Jorge has chosen French as the language of communication for the little time that he has had with the squad. That seems logical, given that all but three of the players come from the predominantly French region, even if that is out-numbered in Switzerland by the German-speaking population.

The smile of Jorge, a Portuguese national who was top scorer in his own league while studying at university, suggests tolerance, but it is not reciprocated in kind, and so he can only say: "I understand it. For me, this reaction is not a sporting question. I don't know any coach who makes political decisions. The squad that I have picked is very close to Roy's, and the way that we play is almost the same, but we are playing England in England for the first match. You have very good players — Ince, Gascoigne and Platt, for example. It is a very difficult match for us. We are not favourites."



Di Stefano: ageless



Pelé: imperious

## Parker is poised to move to Derby

PAUL PARKER, the Manchester United full back, is ready to join Derby County, the FA Carling Premiership newcomers. Parker, the former England defender, is a free agent after his contract at Old Trafford ended last month.

"The deal has been in the pipeline, but I haven't got round to concluding the loose ends," Jim Smith, the Derby manager, said. "There are no problems and I expect the deal to go through this weekend."

Queens Park Rangers will go to a tribunal to secure the services of Steve Slade after Tottenham Hotspur, his club, rejected a £500,000 bid yesterday. Ray Wilkins, the Rangers manager, confirmed that he would pursue Slade, an England Under-21 player, at a meeting on July 1, and added: "I have talked with Steve and he seems keen enough, but it is unfortunate that Tottenham have turned down what we thought was a reasonable offer."

If either club disagrees with the tribunal's decision, the deal may not go through. Chris Waddle, 35, the former England winger, has turned down a new offer from Sheffield Wednesday. Waddle, a former Newcastle United, Tottenham and Middlesbrough player, has been linked with several coaching jobs.

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## Troubled Dutch make do and mend

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

SCOTLAND take heart. Holland, their opening Euro 96 opponents at Villa Park on Monday, are in apparent disarray. Frank de Boer has been sent home, injured, while Ronald de Boer, the older twin by 15 minutes, Patrick Kluivert, the boy wonder of Dutch football, and Peter Hoekstra, the winger, are struggling. Danny Blind, the captain, is suspended.

Thus, at centre back on Monday, Holland will play Johan de Kock, a 31-year-old part-time road engineer, who will be starting his first international for three years. "It is

a little bit concerning," Gus Hiddink, the Holland coach, said yesterday. "We will miss those who do not make it — it will be a big disadvantage — but the players who come in are all familiar with their roles."

Scotland need not sense glory just yet. Though probably stripped of their backbone at Villa Park, the Dutch are maintaining an air of relaxed confidence at their luxurious headquarters in Hertfordshire — none more so than de Kock, the defender from Roda JC Kerkrade, an unflashy club from southern Holland, which nevertheless finished fourth in the Dutch league last



season and qualified for the UEFA Cup.

De Kock, a qualified civil engineer, trains once a day with Roda before returning to work at a firm in nearby Limburg. "It is not a problem," he said. "I don't really go out on the roads. I make the

plans and do all the prices and calculations. It is perhaps 25 per cent of my life, football makes up the other 75 per cent." Although Hiddink has not yet announced his side to face Scotland, de Kock is almost certain to replace Blind. "It is a possibility, but a good one," he said. Jordi Cruyff could also play and hopes to make a significant contribution to the Dutch cause, after relinquishing his chance of playing for Spain. "I have lived 14 of my 22 years in Spain and my culture and mentality is Spanish," he said. "But I have a Dutch passport and my inner feeling is always Dutch."

His club future at Barcelona is less clear. After Johan Cruyff, his father, was dismissed as coach last month, and replaced by Bobby Robson, the former England and FC Porto manager, Cruyff Jr's position is also in jeopardy. Though he has a year of his contract remaining, he is not convinced that he will be seeing it out.

"The fans have been told it will be a football decision, but everyone knows it will be political," he said. "I have spoken to a few people who are interested in me, but nothing will happen until this tournament is over. I want to enjoy every minute of it first."

## Croatia keen to raise cash and morale

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

CROATIA might be living a comfortable life in the countryside of Co Monaghan, in Ireland, where they are putting the final touches to their Euro 96 preparations, but they are still thinking of home.

On Wednesday, they played a charity match against a League of Ireland Select XI to raise money for refugee children in Croatia. The 2-2 result, the same score as when they played Ireland in Dublin on Sunday, was not too significant. They conceded two late goals, after Nicola Jurcovic and Goran Vlaovic had given them a 2-0 lead, yet it was still an ideal final 90-minute work-out before they travel to England tomorrow for their group D campaign.

Mladen Petreski, the team spokesman, said: "We put out our strongest side in the first half and, although we made nine changes at half-time, it was a valuable exercise. Perhaps some of the players were operating at only 50 per cent capacity, but that was sensible."

Robert Prosinecki, the Barcelona midfielder player, appears to have patched up his

differences with Miroslav Blazevic, the coach, after he was hauled off in a recent practice game for refusing to pass to his team-mates. "Robert played the whole game and was brilliant," Petreski said. "His passing was immaculate and I think the coach is happy that Robert proved him wrong."

Important, too, was the fund-raising aspect. With even the Croatian VIPs paying for their tickets, more than £2,000 will go towards the building of a new children's hospital near Zagreb. "The players feel these matters personally," Petreski said. "When they heard recently of a Croatian girl who had lost her sight and needed to go to Germany for urgent medical attention, they collected \$7,000 within half an hour."

Turkey, Croatia's opponents at the City Ground, Nottingham, on Tuesday, have been keeping a low profile at their hideaway in Grantham, Lincolnshire. However, Ozdem Sanberk, the Turkish ambassador to Great Britain, has been doing the rounds and flying the national flag.

## Czechs break new ground

BY ALYSON RUDD

PRESTON Grasshoppers are watching the Czechs closely. The rugby union club is acting as hosts for the Czech Republic's training during Euro 96 and are keen to pick up any fitness tips that may be going spare. Football is not entirely alien to Grasshoppers.

It was the Lancashire club which converted Paul Grayson from a football player into an England rugby international. The transformation started when Grayson was 17 years old and provides the perfect example of how professionalism can help the smaller rugby clubs. A professional code has enabled Grasshoppers to put their players on a contract. It is only a win-bonus contract, but when another player of Grayson's calibre comes through Grasshoppers' ranks, any interested club will have to buy the contract, thereby rewarding the smaller clubs for all training invested in the prodigee.

Beyond that rugby clubs have to live off their wits. Grasshoppers are blessed with more than 30 acres of land and some imagination. Once the Czechs leave a summer ball takes over. When that ends, the circus moves in. The visit of the Czech

Republic, though, provided more of a challenge than usual. A muddy, end-of-season rugby pitch had to be turned into a football field worthy of silky, Continental skills. Although Ken Moore, the club's administration officer, wondered whether Grasshoppers' founders were turning in their graves as the nets were erected, he is proud of the outcome: a lush, even surface that allowed Berger, the Czechs' star player, to show off his repertoire of skills in training this week.



In a collectors' issue of The Times Magazine, a celebration of July 30, 1966: the off and on pitch dramas and the men who gave English football its finest two hours

It is the manner in which the team mixes with the local community that will provide the enriching experience of Euro 96. The Czechs are already blazing the trail having played Bamber Bridge, of the UniBond League, at their tiny stadium near Leyland.

## Sky's the limit for eager Scots

BY KEVIN MCCARRA

LIFE usually gets better for a Scotland manager as soon as his team stops playing matches. Craig Brown is no exception. After the tour to America, and the defeats there by the United States and Colombia, he has had the chance to reflect on the limitations of others, however.

On Tuesday, Brown was in Rotterdam to watch Holland beat Ireland 3-1. Scotland play the Dutch in their opening match of the European championship, at Villa Park on Monday. Against a young Ireland side, there were indications that Gus Hiddink's has its failings.

Holland fell behind in the game and, even after equalising, still allowed Ireland chances. The comforting margin of victory was delivered, just as the crowd's grumbles were becoming noisy, by two late goals. Despite Ajax's success in European club football, Brown notes that the experience of international football in the squad is limited.

That fact could not be disguised when Holland, on Tuesday, removed Danny Blind, their experienced captain, who is suspended for the match with Scotland, so that Johann de Kock, of Roda JC Kerkrade, might be tested. The understudy was not wholly convincing.

Scotland lost 1-0 to a far more experienced Holland team in the European championship finals of 1992. "Ruud Gullit gave Maurice Malpas a difficult evening," Brown said, "but we don't expect a torrid time this year. Gullit, Marco van Basten, Frank Rijkaard and Ronald Koeman have all dropped out of the national side since then."

"I don't think Jordi Cruyff or Gaston Taument will get as much joy on the wing as Gullit did in 1992. For our part, Gary McAllister and John Collins have become established in the middle of the team for us

and they are both good enough to play with any club. "Even though Leeds United were having problems, McAllister was still the best player on the field when Chelsea beat them 4-1 towards the end of the season. He and Collins can be key figures for us. The midfield is the fulcrum. You can't just kick it down the park any more."

Scotland's traditional aggression does, however, have its place. Much of Scotland's training has been devoted to finding ways of harassing the composed Dutch when they are in possession. "I think we will cause them difficulties," Brown said. "We won't stand back and admire them. We will compete enthusiastically."

That sentiment was echoed by Ally McCoist, 33, the Rangers striker, who recognises that Euro 96 is likely to be his last tournament as a Scotland international — and scoring would be the icing on the cake. "I couldn't think of a better way to probably end my appearances," he said.

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## Faldo's form him before

NICK FALDO has been practicing a new swing in his final week before the start of the Open at Royal Birkdale. He has been working on a new grip and a new stance, and he has been hitting the ball with a new confidence. He has been hitting the ball with a new confidence. He has been hitting the ball with a new confidence.

## ATHLETICS

THE 100m sprint is the shortest of the track events, and it is also one of the most exciting. It is a race of pure speed, and it is a race that is won in a matter of seconds. It is a race that is won in a matter of seconds. It is a race that is won in a matter of seconds.

## WORD-WATCHING

THE WORD "MISERABLE" is a common word, but it is also a word that is often used in a way that is not quite correct. It is a word that is often used in a way that is not quite correct. It is a word that is often used in a way that is not quite correct.







TENNIS: GRAF AND SÁNCHEZ VICARIO TO MEET IN FRENCH OPEN FINAL AFTER COMFORTABLE VICTORIES

## Semi-finals produce soporific spectacle

DAVID MILLER



At the French Open in Paris

THE women's singles semi-finals of the French Open championships produced two lacklustre contests. Steffi Graf and Arantxa Sánchez Vicario respectively defeating Conchita Martínez and Jana Novotná in straight sets. Graf reached set point in the first set amid almost total silence, suggesting that many spectators were sleeping.

That was forgivable on two counts: the unexceptional quality of the tennis and the baking conditions, the temperature soaring into the Nineties. It must be said that Martínez, losing to Graf by 6-3, 6-1, was at times so casually careless, hitting loosely into the foot of the net, that she was in danger of dozing off with the customers.

Novotná repeatedly placed an ice pack on her neck, when sitting between change of ends, but it was her grey matter that needed the coolant against Sánchez Vicario. In the second set she led 3-1 and served for the set at 5-4, but, like the Novotná we have come to know, could not pull together in sequence her best shots.

For the first six games all was well as she traded ground strokes with the bustling little Spaniard, causing her problems with her sliced backhand. However, at that point her entire game went to pieces. Including eight double faults, she made 42 unforced errors, in the middle of the match suffering a run in which she surrendered 20 out of 22 consecutive points to allow Sánchez Vicario a 6-3, 7-5 victory.

This was a shame. Novotná is the only player with an all-round game approaching the class of Graf, making her capable of breaking the stranglehold on the women's game held by the top four: Graf, Seles, Martínez and Sánchez Vicario. Novotná had beaten Seles in the quarter-final, and might now have made this her own third grand slam title. As Jaroslav Drobny once reflected on his fellow Czechs, Navratilova, Lendl, Mandlikova and others: "We're a complexed people and take a long time to get it together."

Novotná said that Sánchez Vicario had not won the match, but she had lost it. Pressed on this issue, she made excuses for herself — on the basis that her versatility is incompatible with consistency, a theory, of course, which Graf's record contradicts. At the same time said she thought the women's game was heading up a creek without a paddle.

"It seems the classic [all round] style has disappeared completely," Novotná said. "None of the players outside the top ten plays anything but



Sánchez Vicario shows the determination which is her trademark in making a backhand return yesterday. Photograph: Lionel Cironneau

## RESULTS

## Men

DOUBLES: Semi-final: Y. Kafelnikov (Russia) and D. Vacek (Czech) bt J. Palmer (France) and J. Stark (USA) 6-4, 7-6.

## Women

SINGLES: Semi-final: A. Sánchez Vicario (Spain) bt J. Novotná (Czech) 6-3, 7-5. S. Graf (Germany) bt C. Martínez (Spain) 6-3, 7-5.

6-1 DOUBLES: Quarter-final: G. Fernández (USA) and N. Zverev (Belarus) bt A. Fusi (France) and M. Paz (Argentina) 6-4, 1-6, 6-2.

MIXED DOUBLES: Quarter-final: L. Nolland (Lithuania) and M. Woodforde (Australia) bt N. Pietrangeli (Italy) and T. Woodbridge (Australia) 6-3, 6-3. Semi-final: P. Tarantino and J. Fanni (Argentina) bt M. Bollegraf (Holland) and R. Leach (USA) 6-2, 7-6.

hitting the ball hard from the base line. That's why they can never beat Monica (Seles), because she's better at it."

In the space of three days we have seen the best and worst of Sánchez Vicario. Following her tactical cynicism against Karina Habšudová, we saw yesterday her unsinkable will to win, her capacity to chase and scramble and retrieve, getting everything back into court. Facing her is like being confronted by a sheepdog that will not give up.

Her final against Graf will be her ninth in grand slams, and her fourth in the French

Open. She beat Graf in 1989, aged 18, and lost to her last year. Their head-to-head record stands at 26-8 to Graf, who will have to play far above yesterday's form to retain her title tomorrow.

For all the soporific nature of the occasion, the crowd tried hard to generate some enthusiasm for Novotná, recognising her talent and some of them remembering, no doubt, the way that Sánchez Vicario had behaved on court in the quarter-final. Yet, every time Novotná found some impetus, she quickly lost it. The sixth game of the second set person-

ified the Spaniard's character, pursuing every possibility to break back for 3-3, and revealing the same belligerence when twice break-point down at 4-3.

It would be wrong to suggest that Sánchez Vicario's game is predominantly negative. In that eighth game she had won one of the best points of the match at the end of a 20-stroke rally, pulling Novotná into the net and then beating her with a backhand pass. Briefly, Sánchez Vicario herself ran out of puff, only for Novotná to come to her rescue with an obliging sequence of double faults.

Although there were five consecutive breaks of service after the first game of the first set, there was never a flicker of doubt that Graf would soon be having the shower for which everyone else at Roland Garros longed. Martínez swung her racket disaffectionately after losing a point, much of the time looking little different from a

qualifier out of her depth. She was only saved from swifter execution by the unusual number of unforced errors by Graf.

Serving for the first set at 5-3, there was a sudden flash of the real Graf as she hit two whip-lash forehands, and the second set came and went as quickly as a cold drink on this scorching day. This will be Graf's 26th grand slam final, of which she has won 18.

Today's men's semi-finals should provide something rather more riveting as Pete Sampras and Michael Stich attempt to achieve something unique: the first French final since the Second World War between two serve-and-volleyers. That is a shade dismissive, perhaps, because both of them have far more to their game than mere full toss bullets. Standing in their way respectively are Yevgeny Kafelnikov, of Russia, and Marc Rosset, of Switzerland. Neither can be expected to last more than four sets.

## "The Widget."

Pat Pending 1956.



PAT Pending was this mad chap in the 50s, who being only a diminutive 4ft.5in., was called the "Widget". He should not be confused with our "in the bottle Widget" which was invented in 1994.



## Petchey invades Henman's party

By ALAN RAMSAY

THERE seemed to be much to celebrate for Tim Henman yesterday at Beckenham. Both he and Greg Rusedski had been accepted for the singles at the Olympic Games and he had also made it into the doubles with Neil Broad. It makes Henman the only home-grown player in the men's team, Rusedski coming from Canada and Broad from South Africa. Clare Wood and Valda Lake will represent Great Britain in the women's doubles in Atlanta.

The festivities were ready to start early as, according to the script, Henman should have had an easy win over Mark Petchey for a place in the quarter-finals. Unfortunately, Petchey was determined to spoil things, which he did by beating Britain's top-ranked player 3-6, 7-5, 7-5.

Petchey struggled to keep pace with Henman early on and handed the first set to the younger man by serving three double faults in the sixth game. He trailed 3-1 in the second set, too, but levelled the scores at 4-4 and went on to take the set. By the third set it had become a battle royal in the blistering heat and only at the death did Henman falter, saving one match point before succumbing on the second.

Henman, however, was pleased with the day's efforts. To be selected for Atlanta was "a great honour" while the trials and tribulations on centre court had been no more than "a good warm-up" for Queen's Club and Wimbledon.

Jeremy Bates was scheduled to be Petchey's next opponent but Roger Smith, from the Bahamas, had other ideas. He put out the former British No 146, 6-4, 6-1

in a match Bates thought "bizarre". Everything went to plan as Bates moved through the first set with Smith seldom able to get the ball in court. "Then suddenly he started hitting everything," Bates said. "I had the match won in the second set but I lost my sharpness."

Paul Hand gained a simple passage into the quarter-finals when Wayne Arthur conceded at a set and 4-1 down. He finally gave in to the British challenge and a bout of tennis elbow. Tom Spinks faced the toughest battle, taking on Scott Draper, ranked 542 places above him. However, despite losing the first-set tie-break, Spinks produced some sparkling tennis to go through 6-7, 6-4, 6-2.

Clare Wood reached the semi-finals with a 6-3, 6-2 victory over Laxmi Prasad and now faces the No 1 seed, Christina Singer.

## RUGBY LEAGUE

## French seek new Super League club

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

THE Rugby Football League (RFL) has received an application from a French business consortium to set up a second Super League club in France, based in Bordeaux.

The proposal is for the 1998 season and has been made in conjunction with Bordeaux Football Club. "It would give us one of the best stadiums in France, and is exactly the sort of expansion we want in Europe," Maurice Lindsay, the RFL chief executive, said.

Lindsay's present concern, however, is expediting the entry of South Wales to the competition for next season. Dublin, Barcelona and Milan are other new areas being looked at. The difficulties experienced at Paris Saint-Germain, the sole French club in the Super League, illustrate, however, the problems of finding sufficient quality players to sustain a bigger and more competitive league.

The majority of the Paris side face Castleford at home tonight, 48 hours after they represented France and lost 34-14 to Wales in the European championship match on Wednesday. Paris have lost their past six matches.

## ROWING

## British crews facing tough route to Atlanta

FROM MIKE ROSEWELL, ROWING CORRESPONDENT, IN LUCERNE

THE national holiday in Switzerland yesterday did not extend to the five Great Britain crews involved in the Olympic qualification regatta that starts here today.

For Britain's three women's crews — the eight, coxless pair and lightweight double scull — and the two men's boats — Peter Haining, in a single scull, and Andy Sinton and Nick Strange, in the lightweight double — it was business as usual in high temperatures that caused some members of the eight to lose up to 4½ lb in the course of a quiet eight-kilometre paddle.

With more entries, the two men's boats have preliminary heats today, and only a first place will move them to the final on Sunday, where the top two finishers will book a trip to Atlanta. Anything less than first means a repechage tomorrow.

Haining, the world lightweight champion bidding for Olympic heavyweight selection, will not mind if the weather remains unchanged. At his weight, a head-wind, not heat, is the handicap. Sinton and Strange, said to be "nicely focused" by Nick Howe, their coach, found yes-

## HOCKEY

## Garcia puts penalties to good use

By SYDNEY FRIKIN

GREAT Britain's men achieved a morale-boosting 2-1 victory over Germany in Frankfurt yesterday, reversing the result of the international match at Milton Keynes on May 26.

Germany, reinforced by the return of Fischer, the veteran full back, a member of the Olympic gold medal-winning team of 1992, took a one-goal lead after just four minutes. Saliger scoring. Britain fought back, however, and Garcia equalised from a penalty stroke in the thirteenth minute. He added another goal, which proved to be the winner, from a similar award a minute before half-time.

Although Germany are not in the same pool as Britain for the Olympic Games in Atlanta, there will be further opportunity for Britain to test their strength against them in international tournaments later this month, in Milton Keynes and Amsterdam, also involving Holland and Pakistan.

GERMANY: C. Rott, C. Fisher, G. Mayhoffer, V. Fried, J. Tawes, P. Bollenbaum, C. Bunk, K. Meier, S. Saliger, M. Wollschlaeger, A. Becker.

GREAT BRITAIN: S. Mason, J. Wyatt, J. Hall, P. McGuire, K. Takaue, S. Smith, C. May, R. Garcia, R. Thompson, J. Laidell, N. Thompson.

## Not hunger, just appetite

I Was That Teenager. Radio 4 (FM), 10.00am.

Prompted by Hunter Davies to look back at his teenage self, John Cole, the former BBC Political Editor, spoils my mental picture of him. Young John did not constantly hunger for political food, but he did good-naturedly lock horns with his father, debating political issues into the small hours. Father had shifted from left to right, Son spouted the left-wing thoughts that he got from his Boys' Brigade officer. Stetsonian troubles rarely ruffled family feathers. Son reported what a catholic pal had said about France's early exit from the Second World War: "England's difficulty is Ireland's opportunity." At which, the Presbyterian parent thundered: "What the hell sort of company is this boy keeping?"

I'm Not an Uncle Tom. Radio 5 Live, 9.35pm.

Lennox Lewis denied calling Frank Bruno an "Uncle Tom", but that did not stop Bruno from rejecting the reported fibe in one of his first comments after winning his world title last year. Ian Bent's inquiry into "Uncle Tomism" — blacks selling out to whites — keeps coming back to Bruno. Apropos the legend "Loved by few, hated by many, respected by all" on Mike Tyson's T-shirt, Bent makes a point that is not as simplistic as it may appear at first hearing: Is a black boxer convicted of rape entitled to his fellow blacks' respect, when that same respect is denied to another black boxer whose only offence is that he made people laugh in a pantomime? Peter Daville

## RADIO 1

FM Stereo 6.30am Chris Evans 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Lisa Aronson, incl at 12.30-12.45pm Newsbeat 2.00 Nicky Campbell 4.00 Mark Goodier, incl at 5.30-5.45 Newsbeat 7.00 Essential Selection 10.00 One in the Jungle 12.00 Radio 1 Rap Show 3.00am Annie Nightingale 6.00 Charlie Jordan

## RADIO 2

FM Stereo 6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.20 Wake Up to Women 9.30am Ken Bruce 11.30am Anne Robinson 1.30pm Dabbling Throwing 3.00 Ed Stewart 5.05pm John Dunn 7.00 Maestro 7.30pm Friday Night is Music Night 8.45pm The Thriller Show, by John Buchan, Read by John Nettles (5.10) 9.30 Listen to the Band (Music Live on Tour) 10.00 Mike Harding, Radio 2 Arts Programme 12.00am Susi McCarthy

## RADIO 3

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The Breakfast Programme incl 6.55, 7.55 Racing preview 8.35 The Magazine incl Video Review and News from Europe 12.00 Midday with Simon Ince 12.55pm Moneycheck, 1.15 Entertainment News 2.05pm Focus on Five incl 3.45 Entertainment News 4.00pm Nationwide, incl 5.45 Entertainment News 7.00pm News Extra incl at 7.20pm Friday Sport: Rugby League Paris St Germain v Castillon Tigers; Cricket, the First Test between England and India from Edgbaston 9.25pm Not an Uncle Tom See Choice 10.05pm Paper Talk, with Brian Alexander and Phil Murphy 11.00pm Night Extra 12.00am After Hours 2.05am Up All Night

## TALK RADIO

6.30am Paul Ross 10.00am Scott Chisholm 1.00pm Anne Robinson 3.00pm Tommy Boyd 5.00pm Peter Dinkley 7.00pm Sport 10.00am Mike Allen 1.00am Mike Dickinson

## RADIO 4

6.00am On Air, Vivaldi (Violin Concerto in A, Op 9 No 6); Brahms (Piano Quintet in A minor, Op 89); Weber (Overture: Der Freischütz, Op 86) (Karl Richter); Rostropovich (Violoncello Concerto No 1 in E flat); Handel (Cantata: Neil Ahlrichs selbst); Haydn (Symphony No 7 in C, Le Midi)

10.00am Musical Encounters (Music Live on Tour): Nicola Leitch by the National Chamber Ensemble of Wales and the Pembroke Youth Choir (Trio pieces: Brahms, Tchaikovsky, Schumann); Trud (Swing low sweet chariot); Dandi Quinter in A for piano and wind; Matthias (Angels); Trud (A fly in the ointment); Elgar (Enigma Variations); Malcolm Arnold (Three Sea Shanties); Plus: Alistair (The Week); Gerald (Sings, baritone, sings Mozart, Gilbert and Sullivan and Verdi)

12.00pm Composer of the Week: Bohuslav Martinu, Richard Rodney Bennett; Includes Let's go live in the country; Partita for Orchestra; Early to bed; Concerto for Piano and Orchestra

1.00pm St David's Hall: Lunchtime Recital, Richard McMahon, piano, Beethoven (Piano Sonata in E minor, Op 90); Schumann (Kreisleriana)

2.00pm Schools' Let's Make a Story 2.15pm Music Box 2.30pm Dances Workshop 2.50pm Poetry Corner 3.00pm Mining the Archive, Stephen Plaxton celebrates the career of the violinist Max Hostal

5.00pm The Music Machine, with Tommy Pearson 5.15pm In Tune, includes Rossini

## RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW only) 6.00am News Briefing incl Weather 6.10am Farming Today 6.25pm Prayer for the Day 6.30pm Today and 7.25pm Sport 7.45pm Through for the Day 8.40pm Yesterday in Parliament 8.55pm Weather 9.00pm News 9.05pm Desert Island Discs: Gerry Robinson (r) 9.45pm Feedback, with Chris Durnley

10.00pm News: I Was That Teenager (FM only), See Choice (26) 10.00am An Act of Worship (LW only) 10.15pm This Sceptred Isle (LW only) 10.30pm Woman's Hour 11.00pm Test Match Special: England v India (LW only) The second day's play from Edgbaston

11.30-1.35pm (FM only) The Natural History Programme 12.00pm News: You and Yours 12.25pm The Food Programme 12.55pm Weather 1.00pm The World At One 1.40pm The Archers (r) 1.55pm Shipping Forecast

1.40pm Test Match Special: England v India (LW only), Continued coverage

2.00pm News: The Classic Serial: The Tin Drum (FM only), by Gunter Grass. Abridged by Mike Walker (1/2) (r)

2.00pm Test Match Special: England v India (LW only), Continued coverage

3.00pm News: The Afternoon Shift (FM only)

4.00pm News 4.05pm Kaleidoscope (The Beautiful Game) (FM only). Tim Marlow visits an exhibition of football in Manchester

4.45pm Short Story: Queen of the May (FM only). Written and read by David Benedictus

5.00pm PM (FM only) 5.50pm Shipping Forecast

5.55pm Test Match Special: England v India (LW only), Continued coverage

6.00pm Sport: Cricket News (FM only), 6.30pm Going Places, with David Stoddart

7.00pm News 7.05pm The Archers 7.20pm Prayer for the Day, with Chris Serle

8.05pm Any Questions? Jonathan Ross, with Chris Serle, topical discussion in Upton, near Newark in Nottinghamshire, with panellists Roger Grell, Ian Baker and commentator on criminal justice, Peter Lacey, MP, Secretary of State for Social Security; Anne McElroy, deputy editor of the Spectator and Dr Gavin Strang, MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Food, Agriculture and Rural Affairs

8.50pm Law in Action, with Marcella Berlin

9.15pm Letter from America, by Alistair Cooke

9.30pm Kaleidoscope Features, Paul Allen talks to Alan Bennett about his life and work (r) 9.55pm Weather

10.00pm The World Tonight 10.45pm Book at Bedtime: Bookshop, by Penelope Fitzgerald (10/10)

11.00pm News: England, with Sally Grace, Toby Longworth and the team

11.25pm The Column

11.45pm Today in Parliament (LW only)

12.00pm News incl 12.27am approx

12.30pm The Late Book: The Last Girl (8/6) 12.45pm Shipping Forecast 1.00am World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE RADIO 1, FM 97.6-98.8, RADIO 2, FM 88.0-90.2, RADIO 3, FM 92.0-92.4, RADIO 4, FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720, RADIO 5 LIVE, MW 693, 909, WORLD SERVICE, MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am), CLASSIC FM, FM 100-102, VIRGIN RADIO, FM 105.8; MW 1187, 1215, TALK RADIO UK, MW 1053, 1089; Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Davis, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson and Jane Gregory



# A tough time in front of the small screen

**D**raining is the only word for last night's telly. Cumulatively, *QED*. Postcards from the Edge and The Death of Yugoslavia left me so emotionally parched that a handful of dust would look lively by comparison. Like many people, I suspect, I had seen the trailers for *QED*, featuring Danny — whose rare condition, progeria, made him an old man at 30 — and wondered whether I would have the heart to watch. This fragile, tiny person had a beak nose and a bald, swollen head, and round eyes close together, like buttons. In a baseball cap, he sat beside his adoptive mother in Northamptonshire and blinked at the camera. Thursday was going to be tough, I thought. And I was right.

The theme of *QED* (BBC1) was natural lifespan. How does the ageing process work? Why should healthy people still die of old age? A Texan millionaire called Miller

Quarles has been investing money in cell research, hoping a cure for old age will be discovered before he exhausts the world's supply of vitamin pills. Quarles is 81, and still playing tennis. He has all his faculties. He has iron-grey hair. I think the intended point of this *QED* was that his enemy was the same as Danny's, but it was hard not to compare cases and was judgmental. Alongside Danny, Quarles just seemed monstrous to demand a longer life. The loaded comparison was underlined when Danny's mum asked him: "Is there anything you would change about your life, Danny?" — and after a long, suffering pause he said no.

A couple of years ago, Anthony Thomas made an ITV Network First about American age taboos. I'm pretty sure Quarles was in that, too. The arguments certainly sound familiar. Quarles relishes the idea of extending the lifespan of certain like-minded people (Ron-

ald Reagan and Baroness Thatcher) while preventing births among the less deserving. So that's all right then. "I wanna save my own ass," he said, which was honest of him. Luckily he is too ridiculous to be dangerous, and his cells are reproducing more slowly than ever, so perhaps he will find religion more reliable than science when heading for the great tent in the sky. Meanwhile Danny died in March, a fact revealed at the end of the film, like a slap in the face, making me gasp "Oh no!" and burst into tears.

**G**reat scene in the last of the *QED* (BBC1) when the Duchess of York needed to send a fax from Anita's VIP suite. They stood together by the machine. "It requires a credit card, have you got one?" asked Anita. The Duchess of York leapt for her handbag, saying yes, yes, she was sure she did. But then she stopped.

## REVIEW



Lynne Truss

"Must have left it at home," she said. Ha ha, thought the viewer. That old trick.

But it was a rare moment of levity. I'm afraid, Channel 4's "Broken" season is its best idea in ages, and last night's deeply gloom *Postcards from the Edge* was quite superb. Some people are far worse off than the Duchess of York, you know, and the eminent photo-journalist Nick Danziger

took pictures of such people in Glasgow and Halifax while a film crew followed him around, setting his grainy monochrome pictures in a full-colour context. It was fascinating for anyone prejudiced against photographers (like me), who regard them suspiciously as a cold, parasitic bunch who snap and split without saying a word. Danziger appeared to have a long-standing relationship with his subjects, and kept mentioning previous visits. But damn it, if this intimacy results in better pictures, he would make friends, wouldn't he?

In Glasgow, his subjects were Mary and Aggie, two tough grandmothers framed by an urban wasteland, whose untemperament children were on heroin. As they walked their grandchildren to school, or prayed in the cemetery for a dead daughter, Danziger took close-up pictures, creating still images which consistently said more about the moment than

the moving film. At one point, Mary and Aggie greeted each other briefly at the pub, hugging and patting. Danziger's picture of this encounter caught them holding tight as if their lives depended on it — which, in a sense, was true.

**A**n update programme from the *Death of Yugoslavia* was essential viewing, of course. This BBC2 series was virtually every documentary award last year, and rightly so. If it's astonishing that the women in Glasgow let Danziger hang around in their living rooms, the access in *The Death of Yugoslavia* is mind-boggling. Last night's update — *Far Americana* — described in detail the peace negotiations at Dayton, Ohio, each President candidly telling his own version of events. "In reality," said President Izetbegovic, "we were divided by a mountain of corpses." Warren Christopher and Richard

Holbrooke talked to camera, too, about the tough time they'd had, with Christopher laughingly denying that he ever shouted. "I'm quiet enough that when I raise my voice it's noticeable," he explained. The only star witness not forthcoming was President Clinton, but I expect they'd

As I may have mentioned earlier, it was a good night for telly, but not such a treat for depressives. Turning to *One Foot in the Past* (BBC2) I hoped for some joyful architecture feature to cheer me up, and sure enough, Dan Cruickshank was reviewing the Georgian townhouse, that solid icon of elegance and stability. Hoorah, I thought. Bricks, mortar and classical pediments, you can't go wrong. But alas, it turns out the Georgian townhouse was often jerry-built by rogues. Roofs were held up by bits of old log! Houses fell down and killed people! Oh what a terrible night it was.

**6.00am Business Breakfast** (11736)  
**6.30am BBC Breakfast News** (Ceslex) (42007)  
**9.00am Breakfast News Extra** (Ceslex) (2582465)

**9.20am Morning Surgery** (s) (1256588)  
**9.50am Fighting Back** Maurice Gibb talks about his struggle to beat alcoholism (i) (Ceslex) (s) (1465194)

**10.20am Can't Cook, Won't Cook** (s) (1380378)  
**10.30am News** (Ceslex) (3773007)

**10.55am Cricket — First Test England v India.** Live coverage of the second day's play at Edgbaston (7758945)

**1.00pm News** (Ceslex) and weather (39025007)  
**1.30am Regional News** and weather (39025007)

**1.35am Neighbours** (Ceslex) (s) (35025552)  
**1.55am Cricket — First Test England v India** (35025552)

**3.05am News** (3555555) **3.30am Playdays** (1285552) **3.50am Monster Cafe** (6191533)  
**4.05am Casper Classics** (3502552) **4.10am Little Mouse on the Prairie** (1699842)

**4.35am Clarissa Explains It All** (5262755)  
**5.00am Newsworld** (Ceslex) (1558723)  
**5.10am Blue Peter** (Ceslex) (s) (1163378)

**5.35am Neighbours** (i) (Ceslex) (s) (375353)  
**6.00am News** (Ceslex) and weather (216)  
**6.30am Regional news magazines** (668)

**7.00am Wipeout.** Gameshow in which the prize is a holiday (Ceslex) (s) (5113)  
**7.30am Tomorrow's World.** Science and technology magazine (Ceslex) (s) (552)

**8.00am Euro 96.** Preview. Desmond Lynam looks forward to the 1996 European Football Championship with Ruud Gullit, Alan Hansen and Gary Lineker. For the first time, 16 nations are in the finals. Holders Denmark are joined by former winners Germany, Holland, Italy, France and Spain, and a host of the likely stars of the tournament, plus Terry Venables and Craig Brown (2113)

**9.00am News** (Ceslex) regional news and weather (1378)

**9.20am 999.** Presented by Michael Buerk and Juliet Morris. The skills of a lifeguard crew are tested to the limit when they have to rescue two girls in stormy seas under one of Brighton's piers; and an injured soldier scrambles up a motorway embankment to get help after a car crash (Ceslex) (s) (642303)

**10.25am FILM: Parenthood** (1989). The funny and touching stories of the households that make up one fictional family are played for laughs by an all-star cast. Steve Martin is screwed up about his son being screwed up; Rick Moranis tries to make his toddler into an Einstein, and their young brother turns up out of the blue, pursued by gangsters. Also starring Mary McCormack and Jason Robards. Directed by Ron Howard (Ceslex) (306552)

**12.20am FILM: Distant Thunder** (1998). With John Lingo, Ralph Macchio and Kerrie Keane. After his discharge from the army, Vietnam veteran Mark Lambert abandons his family and moves to the mountains, withdrawing from society. Directed by Rick Rosenthal (Ceslex) (364555)

**2.05am News** (1559243)

**Video Plus+ and the Video PlusCodes**  
The numbers listed in each TV programme listing are Video Plus+ numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a video Plus+ code to watch the video Plus+ for the programme you wish to record. Video Plus+ ("V") and Video PlusCodes are trademarks of Genie Development.

**For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Vision supplement, published Saturday**

**SKY ONE**  
7.00am News (8823) 8.00am Press Live (882355) 9.00am News Connection (882355) 9.30am The Oprah Winfrey Show (882355) 10.00am Jeopardy! (882355) 10.30am Jeopardy! (882355) 11.00am Jeopardy! (882355) 11.30am Jeopardy! (882355) 12.00am Jeopardy! (882355) 12.30am Jeopardy! (882355) 1.00am Jeopardy! (882355) 1.30am Jeopardy! (882355) 1.55am Jeopardy! (882355) 2.00am Jeopardy! (882355) 2.30am Jeopardy! (882355) 2.55am Jeopardy! (882355) 3.00am Jeopardy! (882355) 3.30am Jeopardy! (882355) 3.55am Jeopardy! (882355) 4.00am Jeopardy! (882355) 4.30am Jeopardy! (882355) 4.55am Jeopardy! (882355) 5.00am Jeopardy! (882355) 5.30am Jeopardy! (882355) 5.55am Jeopardy! (882355) 6.00am Jeopardy! (882355) 6.30am Jeopardy! (882355) 6.55am Jeopardy! (882355) 7.00am Jeopardy! (882355) 7.30am Jeopardy! (882355) 7.55am Jeopardy! (882355) 8.00am Jeopardy! (882355) 8.30am Jeopardy! (882355) 8.55am Jeopardy! (882355) 9.00am Jeopardy! (882355) 9.30am Jeopardy! (882355) 9.55am Jeopardy! (882355) 10.00am Jeopardy! 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